Sandwell
CHRONICLE

Thursday, August 10, 2017 | Read by more than 64,000 people | Price when sold 70p

RUFF JUSTICE AS TOP DOGS GET THEIR AWARDS AT PARK SHOW

Labradoodle Harley on the agility course at the show

CANINE competitors of all breeds battled it out at a Sandwell park to be named the best of the best.

Dog owners and their furry friends flocked to Tividale Park to show off their talents at the second Paws 4 Thought event.

The fun dog show and agility displays wowed the crowds on Sunday.

Among the winners was Harley, a Labradoodle who claimed the Best in Show and Waggiest Tale awards.

It was all organised by The Friends of Tividale Park, K9 Search UK and Sandwell Council Parks Team, with hundreds of pounds being raised for the park and various charities including the Husky Education Aid Rescue Team.

Jennie Dhanjal, who is the founder of K9 Search UK, said: "The turnout was good, much better than last year – there was a couple of hundred I reckon.

"It was a good day, a really good day. There were 10 classes, including best in show. There was an award for Golden Oldie, for dogs aged eight and over, and a rescue dog won that. Her name is Lippy, she is riddled with cancer and has a cleft lip so it was quite emotional.

"She is around 11 or 12, a Staffordshire Bull Terrier – a gorgeous dog who still does plenty of running about.

"There was also awards for Most Handsome Male and Dog Most Like Its Owner, and people seemed to enjoy it."

Olivia-Megan Mole, aged three, with Bailey

IN-FIGHTING FUELS LABOUR WALKOUT

TWO Sandwell councillors have quit Labour over 'destructive in-fighting' that they say is stopping the party from properly representing the public.

Bristnall councillor Steven Frear and former mayor Barbara Price, who represents Rowley, will now serve as independents after resigning the party whip.

It came as the authority's leader Steve Eling warned that more Labour councillors were likely to quit in the coming days. He said the exodus from Labour's ranks is part of the fallout from former deputy leader Councillor Mahboob Hussain's failed bid to quash the publication of the Wragge report into alleged misconduct.

Mr Frear said he believed the party and its members had become 'too distracted by internal politics and conflict' and had 'lost sight' of the reasons why they were elected.

He added: "As an independent councillor, I am now free of such destructive in-fighting to focus on what's important and that is to represent my own neighbourhood and its residents, which I have done for the last decade."

Mrs Price said: "I didn't take the decision to stand down lightly but I have to stand by my principles.There is a lot of in-fighting among the group." Mr Eling said he expects more Labour councillors to stand down. "There are some people aligned with Mahboob Hussain who are clearly not happy. The reality is that the Labour group in Sandwell is working better now than it has done in a long, long time."

Meanwhile, the number of councillors' representations on behalf of their ward have also been revealed, with one raising ZERO residents' concerns last year.

Mohinder Singh Tagger, of West Bromwich Central, logged no queries between May 2016 and April this year. It comes

Report by Peter Madeley

after the councillor put forward just ONE piece of council casework in the previous 12 months.

New figures revealed under a Freedom of Information request showed a huge disparity in the amount of work carried out by councillors – with the cabinet member for children's services, Councillor Simon Hackett the busiest with more than 1,000 pieces of casework done.

Council leader, Steve Eling, said a number of members had disputed the figures in relation to the work they did.

Councillor Hackett, who represents the Friar Park ward, was among those who raised the highest number of concerns between May 2016 and April 2017. He was top with 1086 queries logged, followed by Councillor Eling with 423 and Councillor Paul Moore, of Hateley Heath, with 346. Councillor Tagger was contacted by the Chronicle's sister paper, the Express & Star but made no comment on the FOI's findings.

● The full list of FOI figures can be seen at expressandstar.com

Officer Lilly's wish comes true

Lilly Bradley proudly wears a police hat during her day being a police officer in Wednesbury

A FIVE-YEAR-OLD girl who is battling cancer spent a day being a police officer as part of her wish list.

Lilly Bradley, from West Bromwich, along with her seven brothers and sisters, spent time in the cells at Wednesbury station, got to hop aboard police bikes and cars, dress up in uniform and cuddle the force's German shepherd puppies.

While they also had their fingerprints taken and got to handcuff an officer. The visit was arranged by Police Community Support Officer Bernadette Pochron.

Lilly was diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer -- neuroblastoma – in 2015 and underwent her last round of treatment in March with doctors saying it is too dangerous to carry out anymore. She is considered stable albeit not free of the disease. However her family are trying fulfil as many of her wishes as possible should her condition deteriorate in the future.

He mum Rachel said: "Lilly wanted to make a wish list of things for a memory book.

"She had a brilliant day with the police and couldn't pick out her favourite bit as there were so many – but her biggest smiles were with the police puppies and getting to press the sirens in the police cars."

PCSO Pochron, added: "We had a

ACCIDENT

Cyclist, 12, injures head in collision

A CYCLIST suffered a head injury after a crash with a car. The 12-year-old was anaesthetised by an air ambulance doctor after the collision. The incident happened in Ormond Road in Rubery at about 12.45pm on Sunday.

An ambulance was on scene in five minutes and was backed up by a paramedic officer and the Midlands Air Ambulance from Cosford with the MERIT trauma doctor and a critical care paramedic.

A spokesman said: "An off-duty nurse was tending to the child when ambulance staff arrived." The youngster was taken to the paediatric major trauma centre at Birmingham Children's Hospital.

HEALTH

Teen pregnancies for borough drop

TEENAGE pregnancies in Sandwell continue to drop, say borough health experts. Health profiles published by Public Health England showed Sandwell residents' health was below the national average.

Rates of long-term unemployment, diabetes and childhood obesity were also all above the national average.

Public health chief Councillor Elaine Costigan, said: "Our infant mortality rate is lower this year than previous years. However, we know we have a real challenge around obesity."

LEISURE

Maintenance work to see pools close

BOTH pools at Smethwick Swimming Centre will be closed for three weeks while essential maintenance work is carried out.

Additional swimming times are available at nearby Langley Swimming Centre.

The gym, dance studio, sauna and steam facilities will remain open as usual at the centre in Thimblemill Road.

Work will start from August 28.

INSIDE

Chance to reward someone special

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M54 drivers speeding on hard shoulder

Cars on the M54 hard shoulder

WITNESSES said it was like something from the Fast and the Furious films as about a dozen cars chased along the hard shoulder of the M54 during rush hour.

Undertaking the traffic, the cars and 4x4s swerved in and out of the main lanes to avoid slower moving vehicles.

Race

About 12 vehicles were seen travelling from the M6 on the M54 between junctions two and three going towards Telford. Witnesses said they were amazed there wasn't a crash, and that it reminded them of the Fast and the Furious movies.

Dashcam footage was captured by driver Rachel Jenkins, who said: "I got on the M6 at Junction 10 and I noticed cars speeding to get on the motorway there but I thought nothing of it.

"Then when I reached the M54 exit I noticed about four sports cars and about four 4x4 swerving in and out of traffic.

"As I drove further along the M54 more started to whizz down the hard shoulder and stopping traffic, which I think was to allow them to race.

"In total about 12 cars used the hard shoulder to get ahead.

"Luckily there weren't any accidents, which is amazing really."

Anybody with information should call police on 101.

Teacher banned over texts to school pupils

A TEACHER who texted pupils outside of school hours and gave them a lift home in his car has been banned from the profession indefinitely.

Krzysztof Weber was found guilty of conduct which breached professional boundaries whilst working at George Salter Academy in West Bromwich between September 2014 and April last year.

During his time at the secondary, which has more than 1,200 pupils, the 40-year-old sent text messages to one boy at weekends, during the evening and in the early hours of the morning and also communicated with him on Facebook in breach of rules.

He gave another boy his personal mobile number and drove both of them home without seeking their parents' consent. Mr Weber also posted content of a 'sexual nature' onto his Facebook page while employed at Bishop Walsh Catholic School in Sutton Coldfield, where he had worked since 2002, which he spoke about with former pupils.

A professional conduct panel of the National College for Teaching and Leadership sitting in Coventry concluded Mr Weber's conduct 'fell significantly short of the standards expected of the profession'.

A report by Alan Meyrick, on behalf of the Secretary of State for Education, concluded: "The findings of misconduct are serious and the conduct displayed would likely have a negative impact on the individual's status as a teacher, potentially damaging the public perception."

He added: "In light of the panel's findings against Mr Weber, involving activities which meant that Mr Weber failed to maintain appropriate professional boundaries whilst employed at both the School and the Academy, protection of pupils is an important factor given the boundaries issues identified." Mr Weber was banned from teaching in any school, sixth form college, youth accommodation or children's home in England. He cannot appeal for at least two years.

Wolves fan's cheeky fundraiser

Stuart McGann from EJ Hardware, Carisa Coley from Acorns Fundraising Team and Rambo

A 'BAGGIES Tax' has helped bring in thousands of pounds for charity at Wolves fan's hardware shop.

EJ McGann Hardware on Queslett Road, Great Barr has raised £13,272.44 for Acorns Children's Hospice, which provides care and support for life-limited and life-threatened children and their families.

Shop owner Stuart McGann, aged 38, is a Wolves fan and it was an idea of his father, Ted, to urge supporters of rivals Albion to help with his fundraising efforts by popping a bit of change in a pot when they visited the shop.

Stuart credited customers, the local community and his dog, Rambo for helping raise such an amount. "It all started with my dad, Ted, who started fundraising for Acorns at his golf club," he said.

"Things have snowballed since then and we organise events all year round to help raise money. Friends, family and customers all like to get involved and Rambo likes to think he's helping too – he makes sure customers don't leave the shop without putting couple of pennies in the pot."

Carisa Coley, from the fundraising team at Acorns in the Black Country, which is based in Walsall, said: "We're so grateful. What they've achieved over the years has been absolutely fantastic."

To help Acorns continue its work, find out how you can get involved by visiting www.acorns.org.uk

Chiefs pledge to crack down on travellers' illegal camps

TRAVELLERS have been warned that illegal camps will not be tolerated in Sandwell after tough new powers to move unwanted visitors on in record time were used.

Sandwell Council said it would take 'swift action' in a bid to deter travellers from pitching up illegally.

The warning comes after a group was moved on from a car park at Great Bridge Market Place four-and-a-half hours after arriving at 8am on Wednesday. Council and police officers were involved.

The three caravans then transferred to the Ridgacre Industrial Estate in West Bromwich but were followed by council officials and ordered to leave. They were gone by 3pm.

Residents have previously had to wait more than a week for groups to be moved and local authority chiefs are now confident they are equipped with the powers to stop travellers from causing misery in the borough.

The industrial estate is one of 17 council-owned sites that are covered by injunctions banning encampments as of June. A legal travellers site was also set up in Smethwick earlier this year.

The land, near Black Patch Park, is a designated area for encampments.

Chiefs continue pigeons message

COUNCIL bosses are continuing to urge people to stop feeding pigeon's in town centre's. It comes as a campaign was launched last month, with signs put up around West Bromwich town centre, warning that fines of up to £75 could be handed out for littering or leaving food.

Sandwell Council tweeted: "Please don't feed the pigeons in our town centres. They're a nuisance, cause damage to buildings & are a health risk."

The new signs followed concerns about the number of pigeons in West Bromwich – and the problems infestation's cause.

Sandwell Council and West Bromwich Business Improvement District (BID) are concerned about damage to buildings, nuisance for shoppers and businesses and risks to public health.

Rubbish fire put out by fire crews

A PILE of rubbish caught fire on an embankment near a road before the blaze was extinguished by firefighters.

West Midlands Fire Service was called to Nelson Street in Oldbury at 12.24am on Sunday where a quantity of waste was on fire.

Jobless to get £4.5m aid to help find work

THOUSANDS of people in the West Midlands will be offered extra help to find work through a £4.5m initiative.

The money from the Department for Work and Pensions is to help people find work and progress in their career.

The scheme is being developed and delivered by the West Midlands Combined Authority, in partnership with government, and is expected to help support 4,500 people – including disabled and older people.

Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, David Gauke said: "We have record numbers of people in work which is great news, but there are still people missing out on the available opportunities because of barriers to employment.

Progress

"The West Midlands will be leading the way in trialling a new approach to employment support, which will help more vulnerable groups find and progress in work.

"This pilot is yet another step forward in our efforts to help people of all backgrounds enjoy the benefits of work, and will boost the wide ranging support we currently offer."

Communities Secretary and Midlands Engine Ministerial Champion Sajid Javid added: "This employment pilot will trial new approaches to help the most disadvantaged people."

Cancelled ops on the increase

THE number of cancelled operations at Wolverhampton's New Cross Hospital has risen this year.

A total of 37 operations were cancelled in June. This number surpassed the highest figure so far in 2017, which saw 33 operations cancelled in January. A total of 78 operations have been cancelled by the trust so far this year.

The latest figures were released in the Integrated Performance and Monitoring report, discussed at a meeting of hospital bosses. The report said: "A root cause analysis continues to be undertaken for every cancelled operation for non-medical reasons and continues to be reviewed weekly at the divisional managers performance meeting."

Game fair on way

THE Midland Game Fair comes to Weston Park on September 16 and 17.

The show is one of the most celebrated events on the country calendar and covers an eclectic range of traditional rural sporting activities.

Warden fines man AFTER he pays

Picture shows car within the line

A PARKING warden slapped a driver with a fine because his car wasn't 'in a proper bay' – even though it can be seen parked within two white lines.

The attendant was confronted by furious motorist Tom Moore in a council car park in Wolverhampton.

Despite footage showing his car between the two lines, the warden told Mr Moore he was not parked in a bay. The incident occurred in the Snow Hill car park, close to the Wulfrun Centre.

A council spokesman said Mr Moore had parked in a bay which was painted over in December and was no longer a valid space. The spokesman said the behaviour the warden was subjected to was 'aggressive, abusive and unacceptable'.

Mr Moore, who had bought a ticket for his vehicle, filmed the confrontation, and can be heard saying: "Apparently this isn't a bay. These lines aren't there. Yet this woman think it's OK." His camera is then pushed away by the warden, who tells him: "You're still getting a ticket."

As the footage continues, Mr Moore insists he has every right to film the warden in public.

Another driver seems gobsmacked he is being given a ticket – asking: "How's that not a bay?" The warden walks off, saying: "I'm going to sue you."

Mr Moore posted the footage to Facebook with the caption: "I've just had a parking ticket even though I paid." The video has been shared thousands of times online, with many posters on social media supporting Mr Moore's plight. A Wolverhampton council spokesman said: "

"If someone wants to disagree with a decision regarding a penalty charge notice, there is an official process."

Charity boss leaves after racial abuse conviction

A CHARITY boss who racially abused a taxi driver has now left her post, it has been revealed.

Susan Dimmock, the former deputy chief executive of Steps To Work, was found guilty of racially aggravated harassment earlier this year.

The Walsall-based charity helps people in the Black Country and Staffordshire into employment. Bosses at the charity said that following an investigation, Dimmock is 'no longer employed by Steps to Work'.

Susan Dimmock

A spokesman said the organisation had 'a zero tolerance policy on hate crime and cannot compromise on this'. Her profile page on the charity's website has been removed.

Dimmock, 52, of Edmonton Close, Cannock, racially abused taxi driver Muddasar Ali as he drove her home on October 31 last year. She denied racially aggravated harassment, but magistrates found her guilty after a trial in June. Dimmock was fined £623, told to pay a victim surcharge of £30 and court costs of £362.

This sparked an internal probe by the charity, which culminated in her exit.

A Steps to Work spokesman said: "After a thorough investigation conducted by the CEO and the vice chair of the board this matter has been concluded. As a result the employee is no longer employed by Steps to Work. As an organisation we have a zero tolerance policy on hate crime and cannot compromise on this.

Andrew Dimmock, 50, also of Edmonton Close, Cannock was convicted of assault and criminal damage by magistrates in relation to the same incident.

He was fined £173 and ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £30, £25 compensation and £362 court costs.

Roaring time as battle recreated

It's all action as the Battle of Wednesfield enactment gets under way

THE clash of swords, the battering of shields and the roar of men – this is how the Battle of Wednesfield would have looked 1,107 years ago.

It was recreated in spectacular fashion during a special show.

Hundreds watched as actors from Jorvik Vikingr reproduced the iconic event at Wednesfield High School.

Thousands of men are thought to have perished in the bloody encounter in 910AD which was ultimately won by the Anglo-Saxons. It is regarded as an important event in the nation's timeline and community leaders from Wednesfield are keen to make sure the battle is not forgotten.

Young and old got into the medieval spirit with people walking around wearing old-fashioned garments and horned helmets. A march was also held through the town on Saturday, where people attending the festival carried out battle roars in front of local landmarks.

The events were part of a community day organised by the Wednesfield History Society, which is in its third year.

NEWS IN BRIEF

53 jobs go after Marston's deal

THERE have been 53 redundancies following Wolverhampton-based brewery and pubs group Marston's recent purchase of a Bedford brewer.

The group is however continuing to invest in the Charles Wells brewery following the £55 million deal in May. Managing director of the group's beer company Richard Westwood said that 20 new staff were being hired for the warehousing and logistics side.

There have been no redundancies affecting brewing staff and 85 people have been retained at Charles Wells. A few of the Bedford team have moved to the group headquarters in Chapel Ash.

Racing ahead with top venue award

BOSSES at Wolverhampton Racecourse have been presented with their award for being voted the best small racecourse in the Midlands.

Members of the Racegoers Club, the official supporters club for British Racing fans, voted for the racecourse, known as Dunstall Park.

Jan Denning, commercial sales director, tweeted: "Proud moment, accepting the award for Best Small Racecourse - Midlands."

Voters scored on viewing experience, facilities, food and beverage, atmosphere and value for money.

It's back, BGT is heading for city

IT'S back! Britain's Got Talent returns to Wolverhampton this month on the lookout for the next big star.

Auditions for the hit ITV show are due to take place at the city's Wulfrun Centre on August 25 from noon-4pm. Under 16s must be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult.

You can audition in person, or via video, by uploading a clip online. Visit https://gottalent.fremantlemedia.com/ to complete an application form.

Or you can audition by post on a DVD or memory stick. Deadline for online applications is December 31.

Concern over new charges at library

NEW charges to use computers at Wolverhampton libraries have brought in.

The council has introduced a two-hour limit on the free use of PCs followed by a charge of £1 per hour thereafter which the council said is to reduce waiting times.

But John Costello, who runs the We Are The Shadows activist group, said the move is a "step too far." He said many people have got used to using the computers to look for jobs.

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COUNTY NEWS

Urgent action call on dirty air

AN environmental charity has hit out at the Government's air quality plan which they say will leave thousands of residents in Wolverhampton, Walsall, Sandwell and Dudley breathing in poisonous air.

An analysis by Friends of the Earth reveals that there are no plans for action on dirty air across large parts of the West Midlands, despite toxic levels of pollution.

Wolverhampton and Walsall are predicted to have illegal levels of air pollution until at least 2020, but according to the latest air quality plan, no action is required, and no action is planned for Dudley or Sandwell ei-

Singers sought to join city choir

A LEADING choir that has been entertaining crowds since 1943 is appealing for new members.

The City of Wolverhampton Orpheus Male Voice Choir has made a huge impact on charities, collecting money for the likes of the Midland Air Ambulance and the Royal British Legion through fundraising events.

The choir, over the last few years, has diminished in membership, mainly due to ill health or age.

New members do not have to be able to read music. For further information about joining the choir or for details about future concerts go to the website, womvc.org or call 01902 337990.

Surge in demand for electric cars

MOTORISTS in the West Midlands are buying more electric cars than anywhere else in the country.

There were 2,704 alternative fuel vehicles registered in the first half of the year in the region. Greater London saw 2,477 bought and Cambridgeshire 1,928.

Campaign group Go Ultra Low revealed that more than 22,400 plug-in models were registered between January and June 2017 nationally, a rise of 14.3 per cent on 2016.

Trade mission targets Canada

THE West Midlands Mayor is leading a trade mission to Canada this week in a bid to boost the region's economy post-Brexit.

Andy Street has been joined by Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce head Paul Faulkner on the trip to Toronto, where they will meet with business leaders to examine trade possibilities between the West Midlands and Canada.

School expansion welcomed by MP

A Black Country MP has welcomed the expansion of a primary school – saying it will benefit children 'for years to come'.

West Bromwich East MP and deputy leader of the Labour party Tom Watson made the comments as he paid a visit to Priory Primary school in Wednesbury.

The Dorset Road-based site is adding a new classroom block to create 210 extra spaces – doubling the school's overall capacity.

Mr Watson said: "Parents in Wednesbury are crying out for more good school places for their children, and this exciting development will create just that.

"This is an important investment by Sandwell Council and local kids will feel the benefits of these new facilities for years to come."

The new extension has been built by modular construction company Portakabin. It features six new classrooms, a specialist classroom, a dance studio and a staff room.

The school capacity will increase from 210 to 420, bosses said.

School headteacher Phillip Butcher said: "The new building will be a great addition to the Priory Primary. I'm looking forward to seeing it finished and ready for the new term in September."

Councillor Simon Hackett, cabinet member for children's services, has also visited the site of the new building.

He said: "We need more school places to meet high demand.

"We want as many parents as possible to be able to get their child into their first choice of school."

£20m flood work on way to protect homes

By David Cosgrove

A £20 MILLION flood defence scheme in Sandwell to protect more than 1,400 homes and businesses is set to be given the green light by council chiefs.

The Environment Agency project aims to reduce the risk of flooding in Sandwell Valley and protect Forge Mill Farm in West Bromwich from damage.

It has been in the works for more than three years but council bosses are now due to give it the go-ahead at a meeting taking place today, Thursday.

Chiefs admitted the work will 'have a significant visual impact' on the surrounding area, but said its safety benefits outweigh the drawbacks.

The first stage of work to strengthen the flood defences and river embankments is focused on Perry Barr and Witton. The second phase will focus on Sandwell Valley.

Generations

It has been recommended for approval by council planning officers.

A report for the meeting states: "The proposals are vital to public safety in managing any flooding issues for future generations but they will have a significant visual impact on the appearance of this important local area.

"However, I am satisfied that they would not harm the integrity of the area as designated Green Belt, a nature reserve or harm the Forge Mill Farm and Sandwell Valley as a popular visitor attraction.

"There will of course be a lengthy construction process that will cause general disruption."

Council leader Steve Eling said: "Last year and the year before we had some properties flooded and on a couple if occasions when there's been heavy rain and water has risen very quickly it has done a lot of damage."

Battle of Britain Spitfire pilot hero Ken dies

Ken shares a joke with the Duke of Cambridge during an event in 2015 at RAF Coningsby in Lincolnshire

ONE of the last surviving Spitfire pilots from the Battle of Britain, who lived in the West Midlands, has died.

Ken Wilkinson, who was among those famously dubbed 'The Few' by Winston Churchill, was 99.

The chartered surveyor, from Solihull, Birmingham, who once shared a risque joke with the Duke of Cambridge – and told him off for "flying choppers" – died last Monday.

The Battle of Britain Memorial Trust said in a statement that it had learned "with great sadness" of Mr Wilkinson's death, describing him as a "true gentleman who we shall miss dearly".

Born in Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, the son of an aircraft manufacturer found his love for flying while watching aircraft tests at Farnborough.

At the outbreak of war he was selected for the Royal Air Force and chosen to fly a Spitfire. Assigned to 616 and 19 Squadrons in East Anglia, he was among the brave airmen whose role was to protect industrial targets in the Midlands from the Luftwaffe.

In a 2015 interview for the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, he said: "I didn't carry any lucky charms, but I did wear a pair of my wife's knickers around my neck. "And I was one of the lucky ones. I saw friends fall out of the sky, aircraft go up in flames ... terrible things."

In the same year he met the Duke of Cambridge during celebrations for the centenary of 29 (Reserve) Squadron at RAF Coningsby in Lincolnshire.

Mr Wilkinson said he had also given the Duke a ticking-off for his choice of aircraft. "He doesn't fly proper aeroplanes – he flies choppers," he said.

Eliza Tinsley partnership deal set to bring 10 jobs

HISTORIC hardware manufacturer Eliza Tinsley is creating 10 new jobs after forging a link-up with a hi-tech company developing 'smart' locks.

The Wednesbury company, which has its roots in the Victorian nail and chainmaker run by Eliza herself, is working with its sister company, Avocet Hardware, and smart lock company Smarke. The partnership was developed by Eliza Tinsley's owner, Lyric Jain, and will see a version of Avocet Hardware's snap-secure ABS lock fitted in all of Smarke's keyless hi-tech smart locks.

Production of the enhanced locks will take place in the Black County, at Eliza Tinsley's Potters Lane site.

The partnership was unveiled during a visit by MP Adrian Bailey, who said: "Eliza Tinsley has brilliantly brought together traditional Black Country lock making craftsmanship with modern digital technology to develop a ground-breaking product with the potential to transform home and business security."

Lyric Jain said: "Having recognised the potential that Smarke had with its multi-platform access control technology, I worked hard to make the strategic, technical and commercial decisions that enabled us to bring together this exciting partnership."

Bassam Beidas, market development director of Smarke, said: "This is a major milestone for Smarke and given that it ensures our smart locks will feature the best cylinder locks money can buy, and aligns us with a hardware manufacturer of the standing and stature of Eliza Tinsley, it is one that both backers and customers will greet with great delight."

Joy at workers' rights court win

TOM Watson has praised trade unionists for winning a landmark court battle over workers' rights.

Employers must now consult with unions around any workplace issues that affect their members following a Court of Appeal ruling.

This includes issues such as working hours and holiday pay. The case had been taken up by Unison following an issue involving parks police being made redundant without union consultation.

Labour's deputy leader Mr Watson hailed the union's efforts and said it was 'another fantastic result for workers'. Unison general secretary Dave Prentis said: "This means that employees in any workplace where there's a union will now benefit from greater protection at work."

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Bus firm Diamond is named top performer

A BUS operator has been named as the fastest growing company in a Black Country borough.

The best performing firms in Sandwell have been revealed, with Diamond Buses coming out on top after experiencing 43.8 per cent growth during 2017.

It is yet more good news for the firm, coming on the back of the announcement that its owner, Rotala, is will launch a £1 million takeover of Stourbridge firm Hansons. The council has revealed the top 50 index, revealing which companies are performing the best in terms of growth.

Manufacturing firm Corbetts Support Solutions was second on the list, while Harper Group Construction came third.

Sandwell Council leader Steve Eling said he believed UK's turbulent economic and political circumstances are making trading tougher than usual, and that it was an important achievement for the companies which had made the top 50.

He said "The success of Sandwell's top 50 can only reflect hard work, great leadership, commitment and foresight.

"Their growth also demonstrates Sandwell's position as a profitable place in which to operate. Our borough is ideally located at the heart of England and well connected by road, rail and air."

Watson praises trade unionists

TOM Watson has praised trade unionists for winning a landmark court battle over workers' rights.

Employers must now consult with unions around any workplace issues that affect their members following a Court of Appeal ruling.

This includes issues such as working hours and holiday pay. The case had been taken up by Unison following an issue involving parks police being made redundant without union consultation. Labour's deputy leader Mr Watson hailed the union's efforts and said it was 'another fantastic result for workers'.

Previously unions only had the right to be consulted over a small number of issues, including redundancy cases.

Wolfsbane on way

MIDLAND rockers Wolfsbane will perform for fans in Birmingham this December.

The band will play The Asylum in Hockley on Sunday, December 17. Tickets are priced at £15.

Worst 'yet to come' on M5, says chief

THE full impact of roadworks on the M5 will only be felt when children go back to school, according to a council chief.

Sandwell Council leader Steve Eling said so far the knock-on effect of the major works 'hasn't been as bad' as anticipated.

But the true impact of the Oldbury Viaduct repairs will have its acid test when pupils are being ferried to schools in September, he added.

Councillor Eling said: "We'll see what it's like when all the schools are back and traffic is back up to full flow, which it isn't at the moment. So far the impact on the local network of roads hasn't been as bad as we thought it might be – but it is the holiday season.

"I'm still encouraging people to go another route – rather than using that stretch of the motorway – if they can.

"There will be pinch points on local roads including Birchley Island, which historically has always been one.

"This work on the motorway has got to be done, the repairs have got to happen. One of our big concerns has always been that it doesn't bring West Bromwich town centre to a standstill, and certainly that hasn't happened yet. We have talked to Highways England and they're encouraging through traffic to go via the M42, M6 or M6 Toll to avoid that part of the M5.

"If the only traffic which uses that stretch is traffic that's got to use Junctions 1, 2 and 3 – and all other traffic uses other routes – then we've got a good chance of getting through without everything grinding to a halt."

The project to repair Oldbury Viaduct has progressed this week, with a contraflow system put in place.

All traffic has been moved onto the northbound carriageway between junctions one (West Bromwich) and two (Oldbury) – with two lanes running in each direction.

The motorway has also been cut to two lanes from Junction 3 at Halesowen to limit the amount of vehicles approaching the roadworks zone which is causing long delays during rush hour.

The scheme is due to last until the end of next year and motorists have been warned to avoid the area if possible.

Albion heroes show their support for fan Tommy

ALBION players past and present have helped encourage generous Baggies fan to raise thousands of pounds for a five-year-old boy's prosthetic limbs.

And now Tommy Brown, from Walsall, is set to be rewarded with a day to remember at The Hawthorns.

When he was just five months old, Tommy had to have his legs, arm and fingers amputated after contracting meningitis.

His family are now trying to raise money for a new set of prosthetic legs, and their plight encouraged season ticket holder Debbie Green to set up a fundraising night at the Pearl Banqueting Suite in West Bromwich.

FA Cup winning captain Graham Williams, 1960s star Micky Fudge, former striker 'Super Bob' Taylor, and ex-midfield favourite Andy Johnson all attended.

"The night was brilliant," Debbie said. "We had raffles and auctions with match-worn signed shirts donated by Jake Livermore, Jay Rodriguez, and Jonathan Leko.

Favourite

"I had boots off Chris Brunt and Jonny Evans, as well as gloves off Ben Foster."

The evening raised just over £6,000, bringing the total closer towards the £20,000 needed for Tommy's new prosthetics.

And now the Baggies-mad boy is going to be treated to a special day at The Hawthorns in the coming weeks. Tommy received a special shirt with his name and Morrison's number on it at his fundraising night.

"He said 'you're silly Debbie, I'm 5 not 7'," said the fundraiser.

"When the family were going, he said 'I want to talk' and pointed at the microphone. He doesn't normally talk much, but he said 'thank you for my cake and thank you for my presents, thank you for all coming, Boing Boing.'

"Everybody in that room stood up and gave him a round of applause and grown men were crying. Half the room was in tears."

To donate to Tommy's official page, visit https://www.gofundme.com/qpj3as

Diamond couple celebrate in style

Diamond anniversary – Frank and Olive Hayward from Rowley Regis

The couple on their big day

A COUPLE have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary in style with help from their daughters. Frank and Olive Hayward from Rowley Regis celebrated with around 30 members of family and friends at the Dog Inn at Harvington, including daughters Joanne 51, and Caroline, 57.

The couple first crossed paths at Laura Dixon dance club in Birmingham in 1955 and tied the knot two years later at St Hildas Church in Warley.

Mrs Hayward, 81, said: "We went out for a meal, 30 of us, family and friends on Thursday.

"We met in 1955 at Laura Dixon dance club in Birmingham, I asked him for the ladies invitation dance. We just carried on seeing each other and then we got married two years later.

"We got married at St Hildas Church, it was a beautiful day."

Best friend of 62 years Barbara Chapman helped the couple celebrate the special day and grandson Chris, 33, who organised for the Queen to send the Hayward's a card online. Mrs Hayward said: "It was lovely, a surprise. Our grandson arranged it." The happy couple were also treated to a ride in a stretch limousine and got to enjoy a specially made diamond shaped cake.

Together they have two daughters, two sons in law, six grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Daughter Caroline, 57, a chemist healthcare assistant, said: "It was great, it was out of this world it's 60 years. They have just stood by one another and it was just lovely. Myself and my sister just went all out to help them celebrate it, it was just nice.

"They were fantastic parents we never went without."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bake sale to aid good causes

A BAKE sale will raise cash for a Black Country mayor's chosen charities. Mayor of Sandwell Ahmadul Haque has organised the bake sale at The Big House, Church Street, Oldbury, on Wednesday, August 23 from 11.30am to 2.30pm.

Legendary fundraiser Blind Dave Heeley will join the mayor at the event.

All proceeds will go to the mayor's charities, which are Midlands Air Ambulance Charity and Your Trust Charity, which is run by Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust and raises money for cancer services and research.

Swan Lake on way to Symphony Hall

BALLET fans will be treated to a rendition of Swan Lake in Birmingham.

St Petersburg Classic Ballet will perform Andrey Batalov's iconic piece in the Symphony Hall, on January 7.

The ballet tells the tragic tale of love and betrayal with an instantly recognisable score.

It follows Prince Siegfried and his true love, Odette, who, tricked by the evil sorcerer Von Rothbart and his daughter, Odile, would rather die together than live apart. Tickets are priced between £18 and £43. To book go to thsh.co.uk or call 0121 7803333.

Pub opening after revamp

A WEST Bromwich High Street pub will reopen on August 10 following a £100,000 refurbishment.

The Wheatsheaf will be back in action at 12 noon on the day.

Owners Holden's have re-modelled the interior from two rooms to one and repositioned the bar in the revamp.

The Woodsetton-based brewery is introducing West Bromwich Albion memorabilia in the new-look Wheatsheaf, which itself dates from over 140 years ago in 1876.

Fixed Wheel hosts first beer festival

A BLACKHEATH brewery is holding its first beer festival later this month.

Fixed Wheel Brewery on Long Lane Trading Estate is hosting the event from August 24 to 27.

There will be 10 cask beers, 15 keg beers and 10 different ciders featured at the festival.

It is open from 4pm to 10pm on the Thursday and Friday, 11am to 10pm on the Saturday and 12 noon to 10pm on the Sunday.

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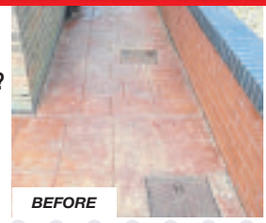

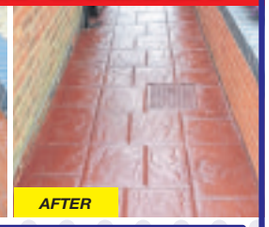

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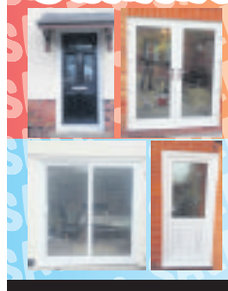

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Picture this, £10k spent to promote MPs' image

I USED to think there were few sights funnier than those bizarre clips they show on televised football where each player walk towards the camera, puts on a stern expression, and then folds his arms. I mean, why do they need to do it? What's wrong with a good old head-and-shoulders picture, if we really need to see what the player looks like at all. We tune in to watch the game, not admire their biceps.

At least that was until I saw the new pictures of our MPs striking similar poses for the House of Commons website. The Commons' authorities spent £10,000 hiring celebrity photographer Chris McAndrew, better known for his pictures of Snoop Dogg and Charlotte Rampling, in an attempt to refresh its stuffy image. And instead came up with what looks like a mob of refugees from an old Kay's catalogue. Now tell me that's not a brilliant use of taxpayer's money.

❒❒❒

DO you ever read something in the news, and wonder if we are all the victim of a huge practical joke?

Take Marie Buchan, the former stripper from Birmingham who seems to have now carved out a rather lucrative career as a serial benefit claimant, raking in a tasty £26,000 a year.

To be honest, I thought the Government had put a stop to all this – I seem to remember something about a "cruel benefit cap" and "plunging 40,000 children into poverty" – but it seems Marie still seems to be doing rather well out of it.

And to put this into context, £26,000 in take-home benefits is the equivalent to a gross salary of £33,000 a year. So I can't help but think there must be a lot of hard-working folk in the Black Country earning considerably less than Marie gets.

Anyhow, Marie has decided that she deserves a little treat, so she did what any struggling single mother-of-eight living on benefits would do, and bought herself a horse. Her splendid 14-hand cob, which she bought in Bilston, will cost something like £3,600 a year to look after.

"I want a horse and I'm going to get it," she says. "I've wanted one for a long, long time – since before I had the kids."

Look, love, I've wanted a 100ft yacht in Antibes for a long time too, but I guess I'm going to have to be patient.

It's probably no great surprise that she is best friends with White Dee off Benefits Street, but it is her justification that it is "no different from buying a car" that really takes the biscuit.

Marie, most people buy a car to go to work in. You should try it some time.

Passchendaele tributes to mark centenary of battle

Prince Charles, seen with his impressive collection of medals at Tyne Cot cemetery

Bill Bray's Legion d'Honneur medal – a timely reminder of a little-known battle on D-Day

A Swiss break for Theresa May, as imagined by journalists working for Private Eye magazine

War of words over Charles's medals

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

MORE on the battle of the sexes. A reader tells me he regularly greets his wife at the door with: "I'm afraid there's been a terrible accident involving all the things you asked me to do today."

OH, the embarrassment. One national newspaper zoomed in on the impressive chestful of medals worn by the Prince of Wales at last week's Passchendaele commemoration and found they were not all real gongs at all. Charles was wearing an assortment of commemorative medals – alongside service medals – most of which he received for being his mother's son: the Coronation medal, Silver Jubilee medal, Golden Jubilee medal, etc. Notably absent was the Cycling Proficiency badge, so we can only assume he never passed the test. Seriously, if you haven't got a proper medal to wear, don't wear anything.

A FASCINATING and well-reasoned letter in a national paper seems to prove that the average new electric car produces twice as much climate-changing carbon dioxide as a petrol car. But such is the political rush for all-electric transport that warnings like this are drowned out. Twenty years ago, when diesel was being hailed as the saviour of the planet, how many dissenting voices were ignored? With a little more foresight, we wouldn't need hindsight.

AMPUTATIONS, public stonings, legally-enforced rape, child abduction. Some pundits claim The Handmaid's Tale (C4) was the most harrowing TV drama ever. Hardly. Over on More 4, Outlander is about to plumb unspeakable depths of depravity. Flipping ahead with the DVD set, I've never seen anything like it. Outlander is described as brand-new drama. The brand in question is red hot and steaming with human flesh. You ain't seen nothing yet.

A THICK embossed envelope arrives inviting me to "an exclusive seminar in your local area" by a "wealth management" firm. Turns out to be in Leicestershire, 28 miles from my front door, which is not exactly what I understand by "local.". If their geography is rubbish, why should I trust their maths?

INCIDENTALLY, I see the attractions at the "wealth management" seminar include coffee and Danish pastries. I fear those may be the most expensive Danish pastries some poor suckers ever eat.

IT has never been easier to get into university than it is now. It has never been easier to get a first; these once-hallowed degrees are now handed out like peppermints. But there is one area of varsity life which is as rigorous and unforgiving as ever - University Challenge (BBC2). This week Southampton University routed Cardiff University by a withering 280-40. Southampton won because its team was better selected, better rehearsed and far better informed than its rivals. Preparation - the ultimate lesson for life.

I WAS pleased to read this week that 97-year-old Bill Bray, a wartime tank driver with the Staffordshire Yeomanry, has been awarded the Legion d'Honneur by the French government for his part in liberating France. He is one of the last survivors of a little battle which probably saved the Allied landings on D-Day, June 6, 1944, yet is barely known today. German tanks were heading for the crowded invasion beaches where they could have caused mayhem. But they were stopped and destroyed in a well-planned ambush by the Staffordshire Yeomanry. It was a decisive moment on that world-changing day, yet it is barely mentioned in history books and has never appeared in any D-Day movie. Why not? Probably because the Yeomanry was a regiment of part-time Territorials, not a fashionable, famous or well-connected regular unit. When the Regulars come home from war, an officer writes the regimental history. When the Territorials come home from war, they go back to their day jobs and their deeds fade from memory. Bill Bray's medal is a timely reminder of a victory which deserves to be remembered with pride.

ACCORDING to legend, mediaeval priests would argue about how many angels could dance on the head of a pin. Thank goodness religion has moved on. Or has it? The latest controversy troubling the Vatican is whether, when preparing the bread and wine for Holy Communion, it is acceptable to use gluten-free bread. Latest thinking from Rome is that totally gluten-free is forbidden but low-gluten bread is fine. Rejoice. I dare say in heaven a lot of angels are dancing at this news, some of them on pins. A small, mischievous part of me would like to see Father Ted explaining it all to Dougal.

"MR Davis asked if I was going to Switzerland and recommended a lovely village called Dignitas." from Theresa May's diary, as imagined in the current Private Eye.

TALKING POINT

We're not part of the problems in society

IT WAS with some amazement, and a little quiet satisfaction, that I found myself being refused an alcohol purchase some 20 years+ since reaching the legal age.

Sadly the reason for this was not because I looked so young, or even that I had 'had enough'. I was refused because I was shopping with one of my children!

There was a very tempting offer at a local convenience store on one of my favourite tipples so I wandered along.

In the absence of trollies, my young daughter helped me carry the wares. At the till, I was asked for her ID. Given that she is a schoolgirl quite clearly below the legal age to drink I pointed out, needlessly, that I was buying the alcohol. Only to be told that because she had 'touched' the bottles, she needed to show her ID.

Frustratedly offering to pay just for the bottles I had touched made no difference. So I stropped out of the shop and spend my hard-earned elsewhere.

But what was gained from denying this busy working mother a little treat at the weekend? I am clearly not going to cause a nuisance drinking at the park or mayhem in town centres after a drunken binge – and neither is my daughter!

Ordinary folk like me are not part of society's problems but we are soft targets. It is easier to tick a box by challenging a mundane mother like myself than actual nuisance drinkers. Would that young girl assistant have been quick to refuse a gang of youths on their way to a party?

It is a similar scenario with speeders. Travelling down the Orbital Route at Cannock during the daytime you are sure to come across the 'safety camera' van looking to snare a stay-at-home mother or elderly driver daring to creep over the limit. They are sure to pay their fines or take a 'humble pie' speed awareness course – easy money.

But anyone who has travelled that route in the evening will no doubt have been almost taken out by one of the boy racers who treat the road like Silverstone. Where is the 'safety camera' then?

Or how about the fly-tippers who are the scourge of our countryside? How many of these end up in the dock? Not enough. But too often we find the poor old dear who paid someone to take away their rubbish paying a fine. That's because it is easier to track them down from the rubbish than really invest time in snaring the thoughtless fly-tippers.

So underage binge drinkers, boy racers and fly-tippers go largely under the radar while working mums are denied a tipple and slightly speedy pensioners are hauled over the coals. Isn't it time we stopped simply hitting the soft targets?

DIANE DAVIES

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Brum cannot be called second city now

SORRY John Bull did you say the second city?

I think we have been kidding ourselves for years that Birmingham is the second city.

We don't have a racecourse, and now we are losing our second dog track, we don't have a Premier League football team, most of our parks are dog walks, and even our premier parks look tired and jaded.

Our once famous Bullring has gone, some of our revered architecture now rubble, the best brutalist architecture of the central library gone, our cathedrals don't look like cathedrals to me, we have a council that has lost hope, it's a rag bag of self-servers and others with a religious agenda.

Our streets have been turned into a horror story with wheelie bins everywhere, and the planning department capitulated to retrospective builds all over the city.

Ridiculous 20 mph restrictions, and even dual carriageways down to 30mph.

We have traffic bottlenecks deliberately created by road narrowing and main arteries into the city under continuous road works, and the world famous balti belt, you must be kidding half the restaurants in the area failed hygiene inspections, and now are streets are full of rubbish, and a city that had so many trees is cutting them down as fast as they can, under bogus health inspections when in fact it's more to do with tree theft and roots.

The second city I suggest John Bull in future you go to Manchester when you arrive back in Britain and you will see how a city should be run.

S T VAUGHAN
Yardley Wood

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Students' loans are a mystery

STUDENT fees have become a politically poisoned chalice when it comes to trying to use them as a vote raiser. Nick Clegg burnt his fingers on trying to entice the student vote with a contract of deceit, and now we see that Jeremy Corbyn has done a U-turn on his promises. I must admit I find it all rather bewildering considering students rarely ever pay back the loan and the debt, although forbidding, isn't debt at all, it's not on your credit rating.

No bailiff will be calling, and many will fly the nest and emigrate abroad so I don't really see why politicians try to hoodwink the students with false promises, Mickey Mouse contracts and dodgy sums.

The rich haven't got a problem as most of them won't have any debt and their education will be tax deductible. So give the kids a break, stop promising them what you can't deliver.

S T VAUGHAN
Yardley Wood

Obscene salaries for the mediocre

IT COMES as little surprise to find the once great institution of the BBC being dragged further into controversy with recent events. The obscene salaries paid to mediocre personalities is a sharp reflection of its judgement and its sense of balance.

The disparity between gender pay is offensive to the many millions of women who buy their TV licences with their hard-earned cash. The BBC's feeble excuse that it is a competitive industry and they have to compete with other companies is nonsense. More than 22,000 people pay their licence fee every year to cover Radio Two presenter Chris Evans' annual salary. Perhaps Chris Evans should stop giving rides to under-privileged kids in his classic cars and give them some cash instead.

ALAN DAVIS
Darlaston

Financial planning decimated

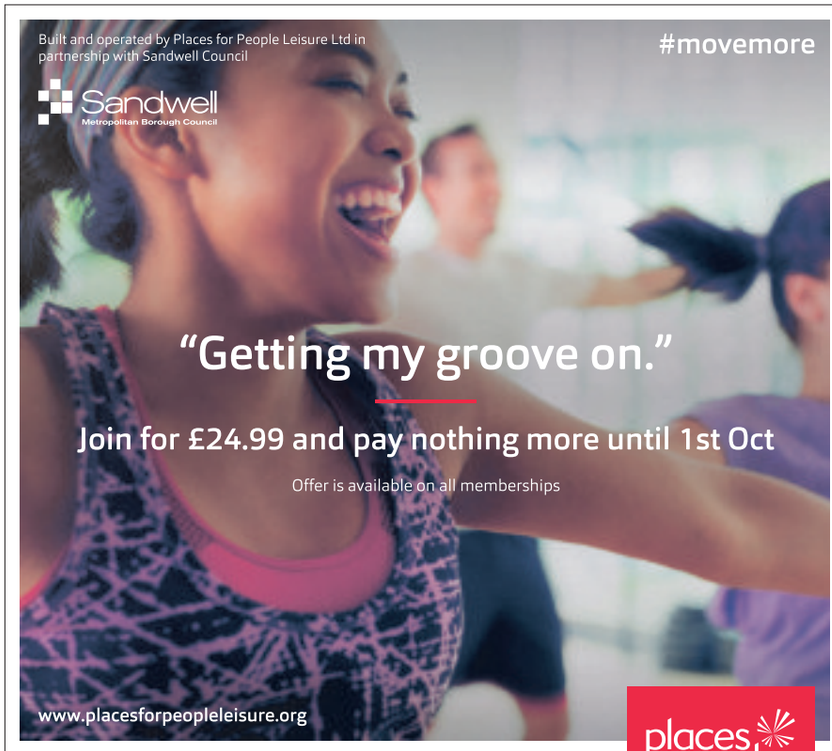
HOW can this or any other government in power change such a life changing entitlement as the state pension age, and more importantly the ending of the additional voluntary contributions element of it?

I entered into what I believed to be a contract with the state to pay national insurance contributions from aged 16 years for 35 years or until I reached the amount that entitled me to draw the pension at 65years of age.

As I will reach that level in eight years time (mygov.co.uk) the following 19 years worth of NI contributions will not be going into my additional contributions, as was the case in 1992 when I started paying into the NI contract.

So my financial planning has gone down the pan, as my personal state pension will not be any more than the upper limit, currently £159.55pw. How can this be legal?

GLEN MORRIS
Oldbury



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Driver jailed for being five times over the drink limit

A DRINK driver from West Bromwich who was almost five times over the limit has been jailed for two months after he was seen drifting across lanes on the M54.

Patrick Guinane, who is a mentor for recovering alcoholics, was stopped by officers when a concerned member of the public dialled 999 after seeing his Mercedes van swerving on the A5 in Shrewsbury at about 5.30pm.

When the 53-year-old was pulled over a short time later, on the M54 at Telford, he measured 168 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath. The legal limit is 35.

Miss Abi Hall, prosecuting at Telford Magistrates Court on Monday, said: "Patrol officers waited near junction six and drove behind the van and were immediately aware of his bad driving.

"The defendant was drifting across lanes and at one point almost collided with another vehicle. Despite flashing using blue lights did not notice them until the officers pulled alongside and motioned for him to pull over.

Labourer

"He eventually stopped just past junction five on the hard shoulder. The officers said he smelled of alcohol, his eyes were bloodshot and he was struggling to stand."

Miss Hall said Guinane, a factory labourer, was arrested and taken to the police station. He admitted driving with excess alcohol on July 29.

The court heard that after being convicted for drink driving in 2012, Guinane, who suffered from anxiety issues, attended a peer group where he eventually became a mentor for people with drinking problems.

Miss Emma Lineton, defending, said: "Unfortunately for him his 17-year relationship ended. On Saturday he was due to collect his belongings from north Wales and he became anxious. He recognises that what he did was wrong.

By Deborah Hardiman

"He took to the road and found himself part way to north Wales, decided to turn around and make his way to Wolverhampton where he planned to park the van and take the tram home. He realised he was foolish."

Sentencing, District Judge Claire Evans said: "The police officer dealing with this case noted that in his whole career he had never come across such a high reading and that he was very alarmed as he feared that there was going to be a very serious accident.

"You were travelling at 70 mph and were completely out of control of the van. It was only due to the good work of the officers who put themselves at risk, that you were pulled over.

"There is no doubt that this matter has crossed the custody threshold.

"The starting point under the sentencing guidelines is 12 weeks in custody. "

She jailed him for eight weeks and Guinane, of Trotters Lane, Hill Top, West Bromwich, will serve half of the term before being released on licence for 12 months. He was also banned from driving for four years.

Subbuteo very much alive and kicking

Mick Hammonds, from Finchfield, takes on Simon Davies, from Harborne, in a match between Wolves and West Brom

IT is a game associated with a bygone era – but a group of players were determined to show Subbuteo was still alive and kicking during a competition.

Enthusiasts travelled from far and wide to take part in the Staffordshire Pro-Am tournament at the Electric Club in Wolverhampton. Players battled it out for the prize on half a dozen tables spread across the room, with the event featuring some of the top Subbuteo players. Rick Bland, aged 47, has even taken the game Down Under. The ex-pat moved to Brisbane 10 years ago and while back to see family was on the lookout for some competitive Subbuteo, which brought him to Wolverhampton.

He said: "We have about 12 members in Brisbane, it is difficult to reach out. There are so many expats out there that if they knew it was there they might come along." Richard Stock, 61, regularly played in the 1970s and has only recently got back into the game, which sees players flick figures to try to score and beat their opponent.

He insists it is more difficult than people would think. He said: "It should be deemed a sport. It is a difficult skill, you have to be two or three moves ahead. It is a problem getting youngsters to play competitive games in this country. We have lost a generation."

Keeping up with sports for summer

SPORTS sessions in a Black Country borough will keep youngsters busy during the summer holidays.

Multi-sports and football sessions are being held at West Smethwick Park and Warley Woods thanks to Sandwell Council.

The sessions, on seven days a week, are run by qualified and first aid-trained staff.

Councillor Richard Marshall, cabinet member for leisure, said: "There's lots going on during the school summer holidays and what's great about these hour-long sessions is they are free as well as being fun."

At West Smethwick Park multi-sports for under 11s is every Tuesday from noon to 1pm and on Wednesdays under 11s football runs from 11.30am to 12.30pm.

On Thursdays multi-sport classes for any age run from noon to 1pm and on Fridays football sessions from 4.30pm to 5.30pm.

Warley Woods Park, in Abbey Road, is hosting any age multi-sports on Sundays from 2pm to 3pm and football Mondays from 6.30pm to 7.30pm.

All the sessions are free. For more information call 07951 985061 .

Bowie's pianist touring album

AMERICAN avant garde jazz pianist Mike Garson, who played with David Bowie, as well as many others pop artists, will be playing in Birmingham on November 25.

He will be joined by a five-strong group including former Bowie guitarist Kevin Armstrong to play Bowie's album Aladdin Sane, on which Garson was key with the development of the album's sound, and a set of Bowie favourites.

The tour begins at the O2 Institute in Digbeth.

Plans for Heathens' new home unveiled

Andrew Hale, Mark Robinson, Paul Tromans and Rob Knowles from the Heathens Speedway Supporters Trust

"IF you don't dream, then nothing will come true."

The group behind plans to build a new track for Cradley Heathens unveiled their vision at the site they hope will become the club's new home.

The Heathens Speedway Supporters' Trust has drawn up proposals for the track at the Lion Farm Estate in Oldbury. Showing off the plans at the site brought the reality of their situation home – and reaffirmed their desire to bring Heathens' two-decade nomadic journey to an end.

Mark Robinson, from the supporters' trust, said: "We've worked really hard to get to this point and we're hopeful we've covered all the bases.

"The only opposition we can think of will come from the community – especially the people who are closest to it.

"We have to try to get across to them that although speedway is noisy it's only one day a week – and not every week– and only during the summer months. We're also going to hold a public meeting later this month and leaflet the area."

Mr Robinson said he was confident the plans will get the green light, despite Sandwell Council leader Steve Eling suggesting the track could cause concerns among residents.

The supporters' trust will move to allay those fears, according to Mr Robinson. He said: "It's ours to lose – we've done all the research on it.

"I'm a firm believer in the theory that if you don't dream then nothing can come true."

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Knife crime rate shows a steady increase

THE West Midlands has seen the number of recorded knife crimes increase every quarter bar one since December 2014.

Between October and December last year there were 654 knife crimes recorded – an average of around seven per day – while the figure for the last five years is 8,519. In that same period there were 64 homicides, which include murder or manslaughter, and 125 attempted murders.

In a bid to combat the knife crime epidemic police have brought in regular knife amnesties. Earlier this year a haul of 20 knives – some with blades of up to 12 inches in length – were handed in to a knife surrender bin in West Bromwich.

It came after Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson set up knife surrender bins across the region in 2015, a move which took hundreds of weapons off the streets.

Hammers

One one occasion last year more than 130 knives, a stun-gun, six blank firing pistols and hammers were found in bins stationed in Wolverhampton, West Bromwich and Birmingham.

There are currently no surrender bins in Dudley and Walsall.

Mr Jamieson also backed an Express & Star campaign to change the law around so-called 'zombie knives'.

Wollaston and Stourbridge Town ward councillor Nicholas Barlow said the continued rise in knife crime was 'frightening' and 'beyond comprehension'."It's terribly sad that people cannot go out for the night or live their life without being caught up in something like this," he added.

"It seems that knife crime is still a big issue and although police are trying to deal with it, it's an issue that is not going to go away quick enough."

Man held over alleged kidnap and auction of young model

A MAN based in the Black Country is at the centre of an international investigation for allegedly kidnapping a model and trying to sell her on the 'dark web'.

The British woman was kidnapped in Milan and detained for six days as her captor tried to auction her off online, Italian police have said.

The 20-year-old victim, named in reports as Chloe Ayling, was attacked on July 11 by two men as she attended an arranged photo shoot.

She is believed to have been drugged and transported in a bag to Borgial, an isolated village near Turin, before being released on July 17.

A day later police raided a home in Tividale, near Oldbury, where they arrested Lukasz Pawal Herba.

Concerned

Officials have released a mugshot of the Polish man, aged 30, who is being detained on suspicion of kidnap and extortion. Residents who live in the three-storey apartment block, just off Tower Road, confirmed to the Express & Star he is the man at the subject of the probe.

One resident said: "I have heard the news. Yes it was him that lived here. I am really concerned.

"You don't think anything like this will come back to your doorstep.

"It has been non-stop people knocking my door asking questions about him over the last couple of days."

One man, who knows Herba but did not wish to be named, said: "It is very difficult for me. This is very sad. I must speak to the police first. I cannot say anymore at moment."

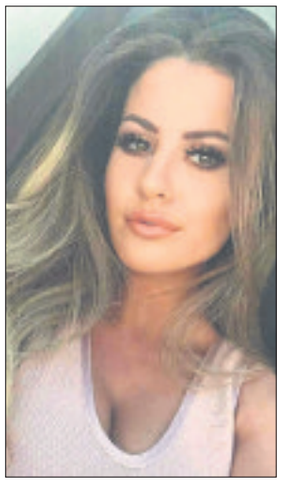

Photo shoot – Chloe Ayling

The three storey block where Herba was living, which was raided by police

The house possibly used as a jail

Arrested – Lukasz Herba

Neighbours have said Herba has not been seen for three weeks.

Prior to that they said he would come and go wearing a suit driving to and from the property in a red Toyota.

It is alleged two men tried to sell the woman online for more than 300,000 dollars (£230,000) and demanded the model's agent pay to secure her safe release.

The woman was kept handcuffed to furniture but was freed after six days and taken to the British consulate in Milan, despite the ransom not being paid. It has been reported that the captor demanded £50,000 upon the woman's release and threatened to kill her if she told police about the incident.

Milan police officer Lorenzo Bucossi stated that the suspect was allegedly working for offered "mercenary services" on the dark web.

According to national reports he said: "Certainly the author of this very serious crime is a dangerous person – don't forget he was also ready to carry out a 'final solution', as he called it.

Mercenary

"He was a killer and was working for an organisation on the deep web that is offering mercenary services such as bombing attacks, kidnapping and the selling of girls on the dark web."

Italian police said they are working with officials in Britain and Poland as they continue to investigate.

A spokeswoman for the Foreign Office said: "We have been providing consular support to a British woman in Italy and are in touch with local authorities."

A West Midlands Police spokeswoman confirmed Derbyshire Constabulary are leading on the domestic investigation and it was their officers who executed the warrant at the Oldbury property on July 18, however the east-Midlands based force were unavailable for further comment.

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Training exercise sees rescue of 'stranded' M-way worker

A RESCUE team were quick to climb scaffolding underneath the M5 as part of a training exercise to 'rescue a stranded workman'.

Pictures posted on social media showed firemen mounting the steel structure in a bid to release the scaffolder in a set time limit.

He was then lowered down in a stretcher from beneath the structure.

West Midlands Fire Service said that crews took the opportunity to carry out the exercise while the scaffolding was in place as part of the M5 works.

Shammi Rana, technical rescue adviser, tweeted about the incident which took place on Monday afternoon. He said: "Great multi-agency collaboration with @WMASHART @TechRescueWMFS rescue of stranded scaffolder beneath the M5 motorway @WestMidsFire."

Northbound

It comes as extensive works continue on the M5 – with commuters left facing daily tailbacks of more than an hour. The project to repair Oldbury viaduct was stepped up a gear last week, with a contraflow system now in place.

All traffic has been moved onto the northbound carriageway between junctions one and two, with two lanes running in each direction.

The motorway has also been cut to two lanes from junction three at Halesowen to limit the amount of vehicles approaching the roadworks zone.

The scheme is due to last until the end of next year and motorists have been warned to avoid the area if possible. Sandwell Council leader Steve Eling said it was a concern if the work was going to affect people 'going about their daily business'.

A rescuer with the 'stranded workman', during an exercise which took place under the M5

NEC Metropole sold in £500m deal

THE Hilton Birmingham Metropole at the NEC has been sold as part of a property deal said to be worth around £500 million.

The hotel – the biggest outside London – has been bought by European real estate investment group Henderson Park along with the Hilton London Metropole near Paddington Station in London.

The pair are being sold by Tonstate Group, which bought them in 2006 for £417m. The price tag on the latest deal has not been disclosed, but is reported to be around £500m.

The deal marks the first move into the UK hotels market by Henderson Park, founded by leading investment tycoon Nick Weber and follows investments into the sector in Paris, where it bought Le Méridien Étoile, the city's largest hotel, and the purchase of The Ledra, a five-star hotel in Athens in June.

The Hilton Birmingham Metropole is the UK's largest hotel outside of London with 790 rooms and the UK's largest conference hotel by delegate capacity with 33 banquet and meeting rooms for up to 2,000 delegates.

It is located at Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre, beside Birmingham International Airport and the future HS2 Birmingham Interchange train station.

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Bikers menace as stunts are pulled on busy road

SHOCKING footage has emerged of bikers pulling wheelies, weaving along bus lanes and riding through red lights on one of the Midlands' busiest routes.

Riders pulled off the dangerous moves while using the A34 Birmingham Road, in Great Barr, near the M6 junction in footage posted online.

The road has been the scene for a series of fatal crashes over recent months including the deaths of schoolgirl Zoe Shapiro and young football fan Charlie Heywood.

And school pupils have joined calls from councillors for a boost in road safety on the stretch of the A34 between Walsall and Birmingham.

A bikers' group posted the footage on social media site Instagram and it has already been viewed more than 31,000 times.

Footage showing bikers pulling off the wheelies and stunts on the road

Balances

The footage shows shows a biker pulling a wheelie on the road outside a convenience store.

It then shows him jumping onto the bike to ride it on one wheel past a bus stop before he is joined by a second rider to race through a red light at the junction with Chapel Lane.

The rider balances on one foot as he pulls a wheelie and weaves along the road, carrying on past the entrance to the roundabout at junction eight of the M6.

He continues up onto the flyover and onto the bus lane, all while traffic passes on the opposite side of the carriageway near the Scott Arms junction.

More footage shows move stunts being pulled along Queslett Road near shops as the route leads towards Aldridge.

Inspector Richard Phillips from Sandwell Police said: "We can confirm that we received complaints from local residents around nuisance caused by people riding off road bikes in the Great Barr area this Sunday.

"There is a huge amount of work going into tackling this menace on our communities.

"Although this isn't always visible to the public – be reassured we are taking action, and working with our partners to tackle this issue.

"I would ask members of the public to help us in our battle to target this kind of anti-social behaviour on our roads."

The police chief added: "If you have images or footage of anti-social riding, have seen the bikes or know where they are kept, I'd ask you to contact us so we can take action."

Anyone with information is asked to call West Midlands Police on 101 or contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Pupils have produced signs and banners to urge people to stay safe outside St Margaret's CofE Primary in Birmingham Road.

The youngsters also designed banners encouraging more safety on the bus dual carriageway.

They launched their campaign with the help of Sandwell Council, the local police and fire service.

Night raises £142k for Air Ambulance

A REMARKABLE £142,000 has been raised for charity at an awards ceremony and charity ball, hosted by Jason Donovan.

Guests of Midlands Air Ambulance Charity's Recognition Awards and Charity Ball raised the money at the event which took place at the Vox Conference Centre in Resorts World Birmingham.

The ball saw nearly 500 guests dig deep to help fund the equivalent of 57 future lifesaving air ambulance missions.

Nine awards were presented to loyal fundraisers, inspirational former patients and lifesaving aircrew. Staffordshire-born charity ambassador and Paralympic gold medallist Sir Lee Pearson, was acknowledged with a Special Recognition Award for his ongoing support of the charity's work. To find out more about supporting Midlands Air Ambulance Charity, visit midlandsairambulance.com.

Sir Lee Pearson with other stars, accepting his award at the gala night

Remembrance day helps put focus on mentors

A HEALTH and social care charity hosted its first Remembrance Day event for service users.

The event, held by 'change, grow, live' (CGL), was held as part of a series of ongoing events led by peer mentors and volunteer co-ordinators at The Beacon in Walsall.

The moving event, was held to coincide with International Remembrance Day for substance users.

It was held in the dedicated memorial garden at CGL's Walsall service.

Karl Newton, one of CGL's recovery champions at its Walsall service, The Beacon, said: "This was a wonderful event. It was a great opportunity to bring together under one roof like-minded people who really care about recovery, to share their personal stories and take a moment to remember those who have tragically lost their lives to addiction.

"We will definitely be looking to put on similar events in the future – they can have a real motivational impact on staff and service users."

Peer mentor and volunteer co-ordinators welcomed those present before two service user reps shared the story of their recovery with attendees including local service users, volunteers and service user reps and staff, and visiting volunteers and service users from CGL Dudley and service commissioners. Service user representatives described the day as "a beautiful, emotional event for all who attended" and concluded that it was "a pleasure to attend, help organise and give a reading for people who lost their lives to addiction and reflect on people who are in recovery".

Prior to the event, volunteers at The Beacon undertook an extensive regeneration of the overgrown garden area to transform it into a space fitting for a memorial garden to former substance users. Volunteers stripped back the flowerbed before re-laying it from scratch.

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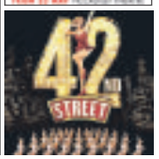

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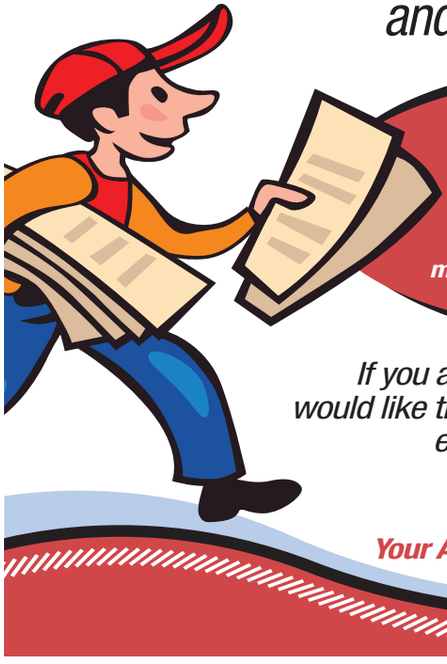

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Simon's 1,600 steps a day to help patients

HE'S the porter who not only transports patients around Sandwell Hospital – but also saves lives.

For just four months ago, Simon Morley found himself carrying out CPR on a patient who had gone into cardiac arrest.

The woman had been undergoing an MRI scan when she became unwell and unresponsive. Quick-thinking Simon leapt into action and started the procedure on the patient along with two radiographers as they waited for the Trust's crash team to get to the scene.

"I never expected to be using my First Aid training – especially when you work in a hospital," said Simon, aged 27, who has been a porter at the Trust for seven years.

"You always think that you won't need to because you have all these doctors and nurses around you.

Stopwatch

"But we were in the scan room when it all happened and there was only me and two radiographers.

Adrenaline kicked in and we just cracked on with it.

He added: "I wasn't scared as I wasn't thinking about it. I got my stopwatch out and made sure I recorded the time so that I could pass on the details to the crash team."

Simon has since found out that the woman has made a full recovery.

"I went to see her a few days later but she had family visiting her, so I didn't want to disturb her. I found out from the nurse that she was doing well and was due to be discharged."

When he's not saving lives, Simon is busy taking inpatients from wards to the X-Ray department.

NHS HEROES

ONCE again we focus some of our time on the quiet heroes of the NHS, from a wide variety of backgrounds doing a wide variety of jobs.

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This week we highlight:
SIMON MORLEY
Porter

He can ferry up to 20 patients a day – and he takes around 16,000 steps during each shift – which is the equivalent of around seven miles.

"It's a really busy job and you are on your feet all day, but you do get to have breaks in between," explained Simon, a dad-of-two from West Bromwich.

"I start at 9am and then will be given my list of patients for the day.

"I'll usually pick up my first person at 9.20am, and then after that it's every 20 minutes that I will pick up my next one.

Simon initially joined the Trust as an apprentice porter. After his training finished a position became available and he jumped at the chance of joining the department full-time.

He explained: "I like helping people and this is a big part of my job when I am taking them from A to B. I'm part of the team that is helping to get this patient home, as ultimately that is what they want.

"I'm so thankful to Lisa Slater who gave me the chance to work as a porter.

"If she hadn't hired me I wouldn't be here now. I've experienced so much since I started and it's all good. She's certainly a hero of mine."

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www.sandwell.gov.uk/holidays

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families first

The service at Coseley War Memorial

Relatives Mandy Caddick and David Cooper

Veterans pay tribute to the memory of Private Thomas Barratt

Serving officers line up to pay tribute

War hero is honoured 100 years after death

HE miraculously escaped death after volunteering to cover his patrol's withdrawal during a relentless attack from enemy snipers near Ypres in Belgium.

Alone, Thomas Barratt stayed and fired back, killing at least six Germans and injuring many before making it safely back to his own lines, despite coming under heavy machine-gun and rifle fire.

Then cruelly, he was killed by a stray shell, described as 'a million to one chance'. His cousin Mandy Caddick spoke of it in a eulogy to her valiant relative, who was just 22, in a dedication ceremony on the 100th anniversary of his death.

More than 200 people observed a two-minute silence in remembrance of Coseley-born Private Barratt at the unveiling of a commemorative stone beside the town war memorial at the junction of Birmingham New Road and Vicarage Road. His courage in battle earned him the Victoria Cross, normally on display at the Staffordshire Regiment Museum, near Lichfield, but exhibited at the service on a ceremonial cushion along with his other medals.

MEMORY LANE

By Marion Brennan

Praise

Words of high praise from his divisional commander were read out at the gathering: "I know of no award of the Victoria Cross more richly merited. Amongst the records of stirring deeds, this stands out second to none."

Dudley mayor Councillor Dave Tyler laid a wreath on behalf of 'a grateful community'. Mrs Caddick, aged 45, of Coseley, and Private Barratt's great nephew David Cooper, 60, of Penn, also placed a poppy tribute.

he Royal British Legion and the Wolverhampton branch of the Western Front Association were among others who laid wreaths.

Mrs Caddick said: "This was an emotional service for both of us. It's sad to think our relative Thomas did not live to receive his VC personally but we think of him often and we are very proud of him."

Mr Cooper remembers taking the Victoria Cross to school as a youngster to show his teacher and classmates.

Thomas Barratt was born on May 5, 1895, in Foundry Street, Darkhouse, Coseley, one of five children born to James and Sarah Ann Barratt. He was six years old when his mother died aged 33.

He volunteered to fight in 1914, shortly after the start of the Great War, and sailed with the 7th South Staffordshires to Gallipoli.

His battalion saw action in France, including the Somme in 1916, before moving further along the Western Front to Belgium, where he was killed. He is buried less than a mile away at Essex Farm Cemetery at Boesinghe, near Ypres.

Private Thomas Barratt

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Couple in shock find of false widow spider

The spider which was found in Smethwick

A RARE spider, with a bite capable of hospitalising victims, has been found at a family home in the Black Country.

Katherine Frost came across the false widow spider – whose name comes from its resemblance to the deadly black widow spider – at her home in Woodbourne Road, Smethwick.

The spider binomial name is Steatoda nobilis, which originates from the Mediterranean, is now the UK's most venomous arachnid. Katherine immediately phoned partner Paul Fellows, who said: "Katherine was quite concerned when she called me. She wasn't sure what kind of spider it was so she put a picture on Facebook asking someone to identify it.

"I have a couple of young children so it was important to have it removed from the home. I used a Tupperware box to scoop it up and then released it outside, away from the home." There have been an increasing number of sightings of the spider in the Black Country and surrounding areas in recent years.

Richard Lloyd and Marcus Cork, who work at a car dealership in Willenhall, found a false widow spider during the course of their duties in 2013.

It had been hiding behind a mirror in a new Renault Traffic van that had been shipped directly from France.

The female's bite is more severe than the male's and typically results in intense pain from the bite similar to that of a bee or wasp sting, along with a fever.

There have been no reported deaths in the UK from false widow spiders, but a number of people have needed hospital treatment after suffering severe reactions.

Airport passengers hit with travel chaos

MASSIVE delays, missing luggage, low staff numbers and grounded planes – Birmingham Airport has been hit by travel chaos for the second time in three months.

By Pete Madeley

Passengers bound for Crete on a Thomson Airways flight were forced to wait on the airport Tarmac for two hours, while others claimed that luggage had been lost.

There were also queues of more than an hour which had formed at baggage collection points.

The problems were caused by ground handler Swissport experiencing a chronic lack of staff over the past week, with around a quarter of their team – between 20 and 30 staff – calling in sick.

The firm had hoped that the issue would be resolved by the end of last week, but holidaymakers continue to face lengthy delays.

It comes as the airport struggles to deal with the extra influx of passengers at the start of the school holidays – one of the busiest periods of the year.

A statement on the Birmingham Airport website said Swissport's staffing issues were 'intermittently' impacting on operations and passengers.

"Birmingham Airport can confirm that ground handler, Swissport, is experiencing staffing issues, which are intermittently impacting on the operations and passengers," it read.

"Birmingham Airport is doing everything in its power to support Swissport and sincerely apologises for the impact this is having on passengers.

"Swissport is contracted by airlines to manage ground operations at Birmingham; however, recognising the impact to customers, the airport is providing significant operation support."

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Holidaymaker spooked by snap of ghostly girl

The picture from the Sistine Chapel

A HOLIDAYMAKER got a fright when he checked his snaps from a trip to Italy and saw what looks like the ghost of a girl at the Sistine Chapel.

Michael Jones, aged 53, was on holiday with his wife in Rome earlier this month, when the couple visited the Vatican City and he took a picture that appears to show a girl on the floor – who Mr Jones says was not there.

For 100 euros the couple took up the once in a lifetime opportunity to visit the 15th century built chapel, the official residence of the Pope. Mr Jones, who works for forklift manufacturer Narrow Aisle Ltd, in Tipton, decided to use his newly-bought tablet to take photos inside the historic building.

Mr Jones, who now lives in Sedgley, said he could not believe his eyes when he saw the photo of what appeared to be of a young, lifeless girl on the floor.

He said: "I was taking photos on my tablet and I haven't a clue how you work these things. It was really something inside so I was just taking photos of everything in there. The floor had a beautiful marble design so I decided to take a picture of that.

"It wasn't until I got back to the hotel I saw the image of the girl there – she was 100 per cent not there at the time of the photo. You can see a man's legs on the picture, he was there. When I first saw it I was choked up, a tear came to my eye."

FOCUS ON TIPTON

Daniel digs in to build a career in construction

A HOUSING development being built in Tipton is giving an Oldbury teenager the opportunity to establish his construction career.

Construction bosses at regional house builder Kier Living were so impressed with the willingness and determination of Daniel Williams, aged 17, while he was on a two-week work experience placement that they offered him a bricklaying apprenticeship.

By David Banner

Sandwell Council's Think Sandwell Area Employment team lined up the placement for Daniel – who was looking for some practical work experience after finishing a Craft Diploma in Brickwork at Sandwell College.

Kier is building 29 new homes on the former Princes End Primary school in Tibbington Terrace including seven new council homes for Sandwell Council.

Both Abdul Mozzamdar, Kier Living's Early Careers Manage and Site Manager David Norris thought that Daniel had something worth investing in and offered him the apprenticeship which also means he can study for an NVQ Level 2 qualification at the same time.

Abdul said: "Daniel joined us on a week's work experience placement organised by Sandwell Council, he did so well that we offered him an additional week which he accepted without hesitation. The sub-contractor partner that he worked with was really impressed with his work ethic and dedication.

Daniel said: "This is a brilliant opportunity for me to learn and earn with on-the-job training. I am looking forward to developing my skills and achieving my Level 2 and then hopefully my Level 3. Looking to the future, I'd like to work in construction management."

Regeneration chief Councillor Paul Moore, said: "I'd like to congratulate Daniel on his achievement."

Anyone wanting more information about apprenticeship opportunities can email enquiries_recruitment@sandwell.gov.uk or call 0121 569 2099.

Abdul Mozzamdar, Early Careers Manager Kier Living; Daniel Williams, Kier Living bricklaying

Grassroots volunteers are awarded

VOLUNTEERS in grassroots football in Tipton are celebrating after being rewarded for their work.

Birmingham County Football Association's annual awards ceremony took place at St Andrews Stadium on July 17.

Hosted by BBC presenter Jenny Wilkes, more than 100 volunteers were in attendance, representing a total of 18 clubs, leagues or football organisations.

Winners included Tipton Youth for FA Charter Standard Development Club of the Year, Stourbridge and District Youth League for FA Charter Standard League of the Year.

Fantastic

Walsall College won Birmingham County Football Association education project of the year.

Kevin Shoemake, chief executive officer of Birmingham FA, said: "It was a fantastic evening which really highlighted the amazing people we have involved in the grassroots game around the region.

"We would like to thank Birmingham City for their support and fantastic hospitality, and local sponsors Irwin Mitchell and their guests for attending. Congratulations again to all the nominees and winners, they should be extremely proud of their achievements and the exceptional standards they set both locally and nationally."

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Travelling: Making the going easy

STAY safe – that is the message as Staffordshire prepares to welcome thousands of people for the V Festival later this month.

The county council is working with festival organisers, the police and Highways England to ensure people travel to the Weston Park festival site safely and with minimum disruption.

V is taking place on the weekend of August 19 and 20. It is the county's largest visitor event – known to attract up to 85,000 festival-goers every year, and brings in around £9 million to the local economy.

The council's cabinet member for economic growth Mark Winnington said: "We're pleased to see so many people come to the county. "We're reminding people to follow official travel advice and directions only, not sat navs, and when they arrive at the site to keep themselves safe.

Smoothly

"We want people to have a safe and enjoyable time at the festival and we work with the organisers, police, Highways England and district council each year to ensure everything runs smoothly.

"The event provides a significant boost to local business and to our economy as thousands of people come into the county. "Residents are used to the festival and will be prepared for it; however we would like to remind anyone travelling in the area, particularly on the Friday (18) or Monday (21) that they should allow additional time for their journeys.

"Buses will be running to and from the site from Stafford station – offering a convenient service to festivalgoers and helping to cut congestion on the roads."

People should only follow official V Festival traffic signs.

For traffic information, people should go to www.trafficengland.com or www.roadworks.org

V Festival – sounds like laugh a minute for fans

Headlining – double Grammy winner P!nk brims with energy and attitude as a live act

Headlining – Jay-Z is a colossus of hip hop, having sold more than 50 million records globally

TUNE into the sounds of laughter as leading comic stars line up with the music stars at this month's V Festival

Raising the smiles will be Lee Nelson, Seann Walsh, Joel Dommett, Dave Hill and Jen Brister.

These, and others, will line up at nearby Weston Park the weekend of August 19 and 20 alongside the sounds of P!nk, Jay Z, Craig David, Ellie Goulding, Stormzy and Jess Glynne. After winning the Best Newcomer award in 2008, Joel Dommett's career has gone from strength-to-strength. His recent stint on I'm A Celeb ensured a laugh a minute for his fellow campmates.

He says: "I'm super excited to be doing comedy at V festival. My favourite word starts with V. Vestibule. I'm beyond excited to see Stormzy. My mum recently called him 'Grimezy' and I laughed for 20 minutes."

Controversial

Simon Brodkin, or better known as his controversial alter-ego, Lee Nelson is no stranger to the comedy circuit. He is perhaps most known for his outlandish stunts and raucous behaviour, such as his famous cameo on stage with Kanye West. Also joining the comedy line up is multi award-winning comedian Seann Walsh. Reviewed by The Guardian as 'unquestionably the best observational comic of his generation'. He says: "Having reached my 30s, I thought it best to avoid festivals where I could. But my agent assures me V Fest is a chilled festival with a range of falafel stands, yurts and even has a yoga tent – the sort of festival, he said, where people even bring their kids."

Next up will be South-Londoner Jen Brister, famous for her politically-angled humour. Appearing regularly on Live At The Apollo, Nevermind The Buzzcocks and 8 Out Of 10 Cats, funny guy Joe Lycett is sure to delight with his quick wit.

Irish comedy and hip-hop duo, The Rubberbandits, will shock the audience with their unusual attire and unique stagecraft. And making his way across the pond is stateside star, Dave Hill. Named as one of 10 comics to watch by Variety!,

V Festival will also feature BBC New Comedy Award nominee, Laura Lexx.

Time for a laugh – top comics Lee Nelson, left, and Joel Dommett who are bound to put a smile on the faces of the thousands of fans at both venues

Stormzy – grime and hip hop artist. He is bound to get the crowds going

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TOP: Winners from the first awards

MIDDLE: Ambassador of the Year Greg Hedges and Watchman V

RIGHT: Louis Johnson, took the title of Young Star

Chance to reward that special person

DO you know someone who deserves a Great Big Thank You? Is it about time they received recognition for all their hard work in a glittering ceremony attended by celebrities from across the region?

Perhaps it's the person you always turn to for advice in your community, someone who supports you and always goes the extra mile to help? Maybe they have helped your area to improve and flourish against the odds? Are they your community champion?

Maybe they are just someone who is known by everyone as being someone you can trust to do the best for you and where you live? Are they always giving up their time to help? Could they be crowned 'Volunteer of the Year'?

Or maybe you know someone who has done their utmost to promote their local roots, someone who encourages people to think more positively about the West Midlands and deserves to be crowned 'Ambassador of the Year'?

Strived

You may know someone special who, even though they're so young, has strived to achieve their goals in the last 12 months, working hard in their chosen hobby or sport to triumph against the adversity of an illness or long-term condition? Do you think they deserve the 'Young Star Award?'

There might be someone you know who happily gives up their time to raise funds for a cause close to their heart. Whether adult or child, this individual leads by example making an extra effort to support others who are less fortunate than themselves. Are they your Fundraiser of the Year?

Do you know a teacher who goes beyond the call of duty to do the very best for their students, or a learner who puts in the extra hours to achieve?

Is there someone who has worked tirelessly to change their life, despite obstacles stacked against them? Have they made their way through a difficult time in the last 12 months and made a fresh start? Could they win the 'Fresh Start Award'?

Whatever they do, we want to hear about them from you. Tell us why this person is so special and nominate them for one of the Express & Star's prestigious Great Big Thank You Awards – which will bring them the recognition they deserve.

They will also have the opportunity to meet some of the most well-known faces of the region in a ceremony aimed exclusively at their achievements.

The sparkling ceremony will take place early next year.

The voice of Strictly, Alan Dedicoat, hosted the last event

SPONSORS OF AWARDS

The Grand Theatre: Ambassador of the Year
A person who has done the most to promote their Black Country and Staffordshire roots within their chosen charity, team or hobby.

NatWest: Community Champion(s)
Someone who has served or inspired others or performed in an exceptional way, giving something back to their community.

whg: Fresh Start Award
Whatever life has thrown at this individual, they will not only have survived but now be making a contribution to their community.

HomeServe: Fundraiser of the Year
There are often personal reasons why individuals of all ages put effort into raising money for a good cause. This award is not about the amount raised but the commitment involved.

The University of Wolverhampton: Learner Award
Someone who has overcome obstacles and moved their life forward, an achiever who has learned new skills and developed their knowledge in their chosen field.

City of Wolverhampton Council: Teacher of the Year
A teacher who inspires their pupils, encourages them to enjoy learning and does whatever they can to help them achieve their potential.

Express & Star: Volunteer of the Year
This award will go to an individual who regularly puts others before themselves and is generous with their time to support an individual or group.

Signal 107: Young Star Award
Person, aged 16 or under, who has gone above and beyond in achieving their goals in the past 12 months.

WHO DO YOU THINK DESERVES A GREAT BIG THANK YOU?

WE WANT TO KNOW!

The great big THANK YOU! Awards 2017 Express & Star

How to nominate

If you know someone or a group of people who you think deserve to be considered for an award, simply complete the form opposite. For more information on each award category visit the website starthankyou.expressandstar.co.uk.

If you're not sure which category is the most suitable, don't worry, the judges will decide where they best belong.

Nominees should live or work in the Black Country or south Staffordshire, i.e. within the circulation area of the Express & Star.

What happens next?

A panel of judges will decide who goes through to the next round. The finalists, with a write-up about each of them, will be featured in the Express & Star and online. Readers can then vote for who they think deserves to win by cutting out special tokens printed in the paper which will appear from October 19 until November 18. The winner in each category will be the person with the most votes.

The chosen finalists, along with selected guests, will be invited to an awards evening in the New Year, when the winners will be announced.

Send your submission to:

The Editor
The Great Big Thank You Awards
Express & Star
Queen Street
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For details and to nominate online go to starthankyou.expressandstar.co.uk

If you have any questions please call the promotions team on 01902 319360

Closing date for entries is 12 noon, Monday, August 21, 2017. Proposers must be aged 18 or over. All nominees' contact information must be on an official nomination form, either in print (and signed by the proposer) or online. You should tell your nominee that you are putting their name forward. If the nominee is under the age of 16, then you must inform their parent/guardian, whose signature will be required for the print form or if nominating online, selecting the tick box on the electronic form to indicate you have done so. Employees and their immediate relatives of the MNA group of companies and campaign sponsors are not permitted to nominate in their own category. Nominees should be living or working in the Black Country/south Staffordshire, reflecting the Express & Star circulation area. If making more than one nomination, please use separate forms. All proposers and nominees must be prepared to take part in any relevant publicity including photographic and video coverage in print and online. Information (excluding contact details) on the person you are nominating will be used in-paper and online. The winner of each category will receive a prize tailored to them. There is no cash or prize alternative. If there is a voting tie in any category, a judging panel will choose the outright winner. The Editor's decision is final.

NOMINATION FORM

Your details

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Details of who you are nominating

Nominee/group name: _____

Their address: _____

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_____

Postcode: _____

Email: _____

Their daytime phone no.: _____

What is your connection with this person/group? *(e.g family, neighbour, helper etc)*

_____

Tell us a bit more about them, such as their hobbies, interests etc _____

_____

_____

Your signature _____

If the person(s) you are nominating is under the age of 16 then signature of their parent/guardian

_____

Their name _____
(BLOCK CAPITALS)

Please select one of the following categories:

- ☐ Ambassador of the Year
- ☐ Fresh Start Award
- ☐ Learner Award
- ☐ Volunteer of the Year
- ☐ Community Champion(s)
- ☐ Fundraiser of the Year
- ☐ Teacher of the Year
- ☐ Young Star Award

Tell us in no more than 100 words why you think the person or group you are nominating deserves to win (alternatively, write your comments on a blank piece of A4 paper) _____

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The Ticket

NAT, LOUIS & JAY KEEP DANCING . . .

INSIDE

BRASSED OFF + TV GUIDE + PUZZLES + MORE

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

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It's Strictly business for dancer Natalie

After working so hard to establish herself on Strictly Come Dancing, leaving was the hardest thing. Natalie Lowe said a fond farewell earlier this year, following her partnership with Olympic long jump champion Greg Rutherford, after seven happy series.

She'd also featured on Dancing With The Stars, in her native Australia, and knew it was time to go.

The muscular blonde dancer says: "I spoke to a very good friend of mine about wanting to leave the show. I really felt like this was the year that I had to make the difficult decision of leaving.

"My friend asked me what I wanted to do and I told him there were lots of exciting things in the future that I wanted to tackle."

Decision made, she set about working out her future. She planned to put her feet up for a few months then focus on a show she was producing at the end of the year. Her friend wasn't so sure.

"He had an idea. He was producing a show that he wanted me to be involved in. I said absolutely not. I told him that I was 99.9 per cent sure it would be a no. But he was persuasive and said the show, Rip It Up, was based in the 1950s. He'd seen a version and wanted to include dance in it.

"At first, I was sure I wouldn't do it but by the end of the conversation I was sure I would. I love that era and that music. I am a massive Elvis Presley fan. My mum and dad used to talk about going to dance nights on a Friday nights and leaving their house open and their car door open. It was a different world. I thought this would be the only chance that I could relive the era that I'm so fond of."

Before she knew it, Natalie had signed on the dotted line and agreed to star alongside Strictly Come Dancing champions Louis Smith MBE and Jay McGuiness in Rip It Up.

Rip It Up promises to bring the fabulous soundtrack of the 1950's to life in an explosion of song and dance that will see Natalie, Jay and Louis swing, bop, jitterbug, lindy hop, jive and ballroom their way through the greatest songs from the greatest decade of music; from romantic ballads and crooner classics to many of the era's defining pop and rock'n'roll hits.

AMAZING

She was drawn to the production by the chance to work with Louis and Jay.

"Louis is already a good friend, after winning the show with Flavia. And Jay did that amazing dance with Aliona. So I thought the three of us would be an amazing combination.

"I love being on tour and the fact that we go to London Palladium is great. The whole show will be epic and amazing and full-on. There's lots of jives and full-on dances."

Natalie has spent much of her life on the road. She was with a touring show for five years, dancing around the world. "It never really ended. That was our job, day in and day out. We would do it for eight months of the year and I loved it. So if I can survive that, I can do anything.

"Taking two months out of my life to do something that I love with a passion is a privilege. I'm so excited to be dancing – I'm definitely not hanging the towel up."

Moving on so quickly and starring in theatres throughout autumn means she won't have time to miss Strictly. "It'll soften the blow. If I wasn't working, I'd be there in front of the TV with the Kleenex, weeping.

"But I think you can get too safe, too samey in your world. Something inside me wants to do more, and not just dance. I've been wanting to start up my own company for about 10 years. I've got other interests outside of dance. I'm not going to go and start playing baseball. But I want to develop new projects and be creative.

"I loved Strictly. It's the most amazing show in the whole wide world. But now I need to start challenging myself as a choreographer, director, producer – I need to start bringing shows to life without necessarily being in them."

Keep dancing – Natalie stars with Louis Smith and Jay McGuiness

Natalie says the reaction from the public is one of the most exciting experiences of Strictly – though she seldom realised how popular the show was until the end of each series. While filming was taking place, she was too busy working to notice.

"You live, breathe, sleep and dance Strictly. You are up from August until the end of the year. In August, it's a whole month of professional routines to get the show looking as amazing as possible. Then we have three weeks with our celebrity after the launch. So we've done two-and-a-half months before it comes to life.

"Then we're dancing with our partners six to 10 hours a day. We'll come home, research music or have to do a solo performance. On average, I'd work a 14-16-hour day. I lived on four to six hours sleep per night during Strictly. You have to and you need to if you want to do well. That's the sacrifice you have to make. You have to come up with ideas and storyboards. You have to think about lighting, costume, music and what feels right. Then you have to teach a celebrity. Then there's interviews. But the public – you don't realise how much they are loving you. It's just home, studio, BBC, studio, home."

"It's been the most amazing, educational journey of my whole, entire career. We start really good friends and always bump into each other.

She remains in touch with the guys she danced with and believes they're all incredible in different ways.

"But it's time to move on." It's time to Rip It Up.

● Natalie brings her new show to Birmingham Symphony Hall on September 19; Aston Hall in Wrexham on September 21; and Theatre Severn in Shrewsbury on September 22. Tickets still on sale

● **For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.**

Picket line with Shane, played by Ash Matthews

Brassed Off – but the Grand is anything but

FOR the first time in almost 40 years, the Grand Theatre will produce a full-scale production in house. And it is proving an exciting time for the Wolverhampton theatre.

Jeffrey Holland will play ex-miner and veteran conductor of Grimley Band, Danny in Brassed Off, from Wednesday August 23-Saturday, September 2.

Other casting includes Christopher Connel who will play Phil, Miriam Grace Edwards as Sandra, Ash Matthews as Shane, Clara Darcy as Gloria and Eddy Massarella will play Andy.

They will be joined by local actors Tim Jones as Harry, Greg Yates as Jim, Susie Wilcox as Vera and Donna Heaslip as Rita. Sharing the role of Craig will be Henry Hart, Samuel Allen Cooper and Alexander Hogg. Sharing the role of Melody will be Lydia Hart, Mollie Cotterill and Catherine Richmond-Maud.

With the band – Jeffrey Holland as Danny

Miriam Grace Edwards who plays Sandra

Grand Theatre Press & PR Manager Scott Bird said, "Meeting our cast for the first time was a very special moment. We're all working towards a new chapter in Grand Theatre history.

"The opportunity to produce our own drama production and have incredibly talented local actors and band members working with well-respected professional actors will no doubt create something very unique."

Jeffrey Holland (Danny) is probably best known for his portrayal of Spike in BBC TV's Hi-De-Hi, the stuffy footman 'James Twelvetrees' in all four series of the hugely successful You Rang M'Lord? and more recently as Mr Cecil Parkin the stationmaster in Oh, Dr. Beeching! Born in Walsall Jeffrey trained in Birmingham and began his career with four and a half years in repertory at the Belgrade Theatre, Coventry where he eventually finished up as leading character man. His theatre work is extensive and includes seasons at the Chichester Festival Theatre and Edinburgh Festival.

Brassed Off is written by Paul Allen, adapted from the screenplay by Mark Herman. It's 1994; and Danny's lifelong ambition to lead Grimley Colliery Band to the National Brass Band Competition at the Royal Albert Hall looks like it might finally happen. But as Grimley pit faces closure, the future looks bleak as the town is thrown into conflict.

HOPE

Flugelhorn player Gloria arrives in town bringing with her a renewed sense of hope and a touch of romance, but no-one knows who she's really playing for...

Brassed Off is produced by Wolverhampton Grand Theatre in association with talking Scarlet. It will be directed by Gareth Tudor Price, formerly Artistic Director of Hull Truck Theatre. Set and costume design is by John Brooking. Lighting design for the production is by Anthony Aston.

The first drama to be produced by the theatre will feature a community cast who will appear in a variety of speaking and non-speaking roles alongside high-profile professional actors.

There will also be a full brass band who will form an integral part of the production.

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SATURDAY'S TV AUGUST 12

CHOICE

Nadia Emam

Performance Live - Flood: To The Sea
(BBC2, 10pm)
A chance to see a performance of the ground-breaking drama To the Sea, the third instalment of James Phillips' epic four-part multimedia narrative Flood, which explores what might happen if England was destroyed by a global flood. Serving as a post-apocalyptic re-imagining of the flood myth found in Judeo-Christian scripture. Tonight's third installment asks a simple question: what if the masses of refugees, frequently seen on news broadcasts fleeing scenes of devastation, had English accents?

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.30** World Athletics Championships 2017. Gabby Logan presents coverage of the morning session on day nine at The London Stadium in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, including the men's and women's 4x100m heats. Coverage continues on BBC2. **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **3.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.00** Final Score. **5.20** BBC News. **5.30** Regional Programme. **5.40** Pointless Celebrities. (R)

6.30 World Athletics Championships 2017. Gabby Logan presents coverage of the ninth and penultimate evening at The London Stadium in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, where Mo Farah and Usain Bolt are set to make their final track appearances in the 5,000m and 4x100m finals respectively, hoping to add another gold each to their incredible medal tallies. The decathlon also concludes with the javelin and 1500m, and finals take place in the women's high jump, 100m hurdles and 4x100m, and men's javelin.

10.10 BBC News; Weather.; National Lottery Update.

10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents action from the opening round of Premier League fixtures, including Watford v Liverpool, Chelsea v Burnley and Brighton & Hove Albion v Manchester City. Liverpool defeated the Hornets 1-0 in last season's corresponding fixture thanks to Emre Can's Match of the Day Goal of the Season-winner and will have expected another tough encounter. Meanwhile, Chelsea will have expected to get their title-defence off to a winning start and newly promoted Brighton faced a difficult task against Pep Guardiola's expensively assembled side.

12.00 Film: Buried. (2010) An American truck driver working in Iraq is kidnapped by guerrillas, who seal him in a wooden box and bury it in the desert. Discovering his cell phone has been left in the box with him, he uses this fragile link to the outside world to try to get help – but his supply of air is running low and even he does not know where he is. Thriller, starring Ryan Reynolds. **1.35** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.40** BBC News.

BBC2

6.30 Film: Escapade in Japan. (1957) **8.00 Film:** Little Women. (1949) **10.00** Saturday Kitchen. **11.30** Food & Drink. (R) **12.00** World Athletics Championships 2017. Further coverage of the opening session on day nine. **12.30** Nigel and Adam's Farm Kitchen. (R) **1.30** James Stewart: Talking Pictures. (R) **2.20 Film:** The Philadelphia Story. (1940) Romantic comedy, starring Katharine Hepburn and Cary Grant. **4.10** Only Connect. (R) **4.40** Gardeners' World. (R) **5.40** The Sweet Makers: A Georgian Treat. (R)

6.40 Iolo's Great Welsh Parks. New series. Iolo Williams explores Great Orme Country Park in Llandudno.

7.10 Proms Extra. As the Proms season crosses its halfway point, Katie Derham turns her attention to the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, which performed Thomas Ades' Polaris as part of Prom 28 last weekend. She also revisits yesterday's Prom 35, in which conductor John Wilson led his own ensemble in a rendition of Oklahoma!, by Oscar Hammerstein II and Richard Rodgers. Plus, David Owen Norris returns with Chord of the Week.

7.50 Dad's Army. Captain Mainwaring is determined that all his men should be well-shod and have battle-worthy feet, so he starts a regimen involving lengthy route marches. (R)

8.20 Film: Alice in Wonderland. (2010) A 19-year-old Alice returns to the magical land, having forgotten her previous adventures. She finds the tyrannical Red Queen has begun a reign of terror that can only be ended by slaying the monstrous Jabberwocky – a task she is seemingly destined to attempt. Tim Burton's fantasy adventure based on Lewis Carroll's novels, starring Mia Wasikowska, Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter and Anne Hathaway.

10.00 Performance Live – Flood: To the Sea.

10.30 Golf: USPGA Championship. Eilidh Barbour presents live coverage of the closing stages of day three at the fourth and final Major of the year, held at Quail Hollow Club in Charlotte, North Carolina.

12.15 Film: The Way. (2010) **2.15** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Sooty. (R) **6.30** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Oddbods. (R) **7.05** Oddbods. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.25** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.40** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Home Game. (R) **10.20** Gok's Lunchbox. (R) **11.20** 1000 Heartbeats. (R) **12.15** ITV News; Weather. **12.25** Catchphrase. (R) **1.10** Midsomer Murders. (R) **3.10 Film:** Uncle Buck. (1989) Family comedy, starring John Candy. **5.00** Little Big Shots USA.

6.00 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.05 ITV News; Weather.

6.15 You've Been Framed! Finest. Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, including a mustard-swallowing challenge that backfires and a teenager who finds a cockroach in his dinner. (R)

7.15 Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show in which three contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000.

8.00 Joanna Lumley – Elvis and Me. The actress goes on a personal journey to discover more about Elvis, travelling to his birthplace and meeting Priscilla Presley to gain an insight into the man behind the myth. (R)

9.00 The Nation's Favourite Elvis Song. A countdown of the King's 20 greatest hits, from Heartbreak Hotel to Hound Dog, It's Now or Never to Jailhouse Rock, as voted for by the British public. The programme, narrated by Zoe Ball, features archive footage and home movies, and contributions by different generations of stars who have been influenced by him, including Michael Buble, Cliff Richard, Cerys Matthews and Engelbert Humperdinck. (R)

10.30 ITV News; Weather.

10.45 Film: Tomorrow Never Dies. (1997) James Bond battles to stop a media mogul's plan to start a war between Britain and China. Spy adventure, starring Pierce Brosnan.

1.00 Jackpot247.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 Adventure and Trail Running: UK Challenge. **6.40** Mobil 1 The Grid. **7.05** British GT Championship. **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.50** The Simpsons. (R) **11.25** The Simpsons. (R) **11.55** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **12.50** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.20** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.55** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.25** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.00** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.30** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **4.35** Big House, Little House. **5.35** Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Britain at Low Tide. Tori Herridge and Alex Langlands investigate Merseyside's coastal archaeology. They explore a beach full of rubble from the Second World War and discover evidence of people and animals dating back for 7000 years. (R)

8.00 Paul O'Grady's Hollywood. The TV presenter continues his comprehensive exploration of the bombastic side of Hollywood, this time turning his attention to musical numbers that have elevated the popularity of their respective films. Over the years, Tinseltown musicals have touched on a wide variety of cinematic genres, from the family-friendly fantasies to urban dance and even more macabre territory via The Rocky Horror Picture Show. Here, Paul revisits Mary Poppins' tongue-twisting Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious, Pinball Wizard from Tommy, and a variety of numbers from Fame and Flashdance. He also sheds light on how Disney animation studios are keeping the musical genre alive, with blockbuster hits such as Frozen, which came complete with its own Oscar-winning girl-power anthem Let It Go. Includes contributions by Jonathan Ross, Celine Dion, Maureen Lipman and more. The concluding part can be seen on More4 tomorrow at 9pm.

9.00 Film: Red 2. (2013) Action thriller sequel, starring Bruce Willis, Helen Mirren and John Malkovich.

11.15 Film: Let's Be Cops. (2014) Premiere. Comedy, starring Jake Johnson and Damon Wayans Jr.

1.10 Eden: Paradise Lost. (R) **2.05** The Last Leg. (R) **3.00** Hollyoaks.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.30** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.50** Budgies Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **11.50** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.50** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.50** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. (R) **2.45** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. (R) **3.45** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **4.40** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **5.40** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R)

6.35 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. A Devon woman spends a night in the cells after a dispute with a neighbour who happens to be a policeman, while a York man gets an unexpected soaking after an argument. (R)

7.30 The Adele Story. Documentary charting the remarkable career trajectory of Adele Adkins, the pop and soul singer who rose from humble beginnings in Tottenham to become one of the biggest stars of the modern music industry. Now popular enough to warrant going by her forename only, Adele's interest in music was encouraged by her mother from an early age. Winning a place at the Brit School in Croydon, Adele first shot into the public eye when her friend uploaded a demo to MySpace in 2006, and by the time she graduated, the singer had already secured a record deal. What followed were three hugely successful albums, 19, 21 and 25, each of which surpassed the last in terms of critical acclaim and sales figures. Adele also scored an Oscar in 2013 for her song Skyfall, which featured as the theme of the James Bond film of the same name. (R)

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Football on 5: The Championship. Highlights from the latest games in the Championship, which included Sheffield Wednesday v Queens Park Rangers, Leeds United v Preston North End and Hull City v Burton Albion.

10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush. Goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, which included Blackburn Rovers v Doncaster Rovers and Plymouth Argyle v Charlton Athletic.

10.30 Celebrity Big Brother. orders.

11.30 Lip Sync Battle UK: Manford v Keegan. (R)

12.00 SuperCasino. **3.10** Cat 8. (R) **4.40** Lip Sync Battle UK: Manford v Keegan. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 The Brain with David Eagleman **8.00** Britain's Treasure Islands **9.00** I Know Who You Are **11.40** Top of the Pops: 1984 **12.40** How Quizzing Got Cool: TV's Brains of Britain **1.40** How to Make a Number One Record **2.40** Britain's Treasure Islands **3.40** Close

ITV2

11.30 Take Me Out **12.55** Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule **1.20** You've Been Framed! Gold Yearbook **2.25 Film:** Planet 51 (2009) **3.25** FYI Daily **3.30 Film:** Planet 51 (2009) **4.15 Film:** Liar Liar (1997) **5.20** FYI Daily **5.25 Film:** Liar Liar (1997) **5.55 Film:** A Bug's Life (1998) **6.55** FYI Daily **7.00 Film:** A Bug's Life (1998) **8.00 Film:** The Amazing Spider-Man 2 (2014) **9.00** FYI Daily **9.05 Film:** The Amazing Spider-Man 2 (2014) **10.45** Family Guy **12.20** American Dad! **12.45 Film:** Forgetting Sarah Marshall (2008) **1.45** FYI Daily **1.50 Film:** Forgetting Sarah Marshall (2008) **2.45** Emma Willis: The Hot Desk **2.55** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

11.55 Film: Carry On Cruising (1962) **12.55** FYI Daily **1.00 Film:** Carry On Cruising (1962) **1.50** Wycliffe **3.00** Lewis **4.55** Housewife, 49 **7.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **9.00** Foyle's War **11.00** Law & Order: UK **1.55** Rising Damp **2.20** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

11.00 BRDC Formula 3 Championship Highlights **12.00** Storage Wars **12.30** ITV Racing Live. Coverage of today's race meetings at Ascot, Haydock Park and Newmarket. **4.30 Film:** The Man from the Alamo (1953) **5.30** FYI Daily **5.35 Film:** The Man from the Alamo (1953) **6.10** World Cup Rivalries: England v Argentina **6.30** Storage Wars **7.00** World Series of Darts: Auckland **11.00 Film:** Lock Up (1989) **12.05** FYI Daily **12.10 Film:** Lock Up (1989) **1.15** Ironside

E4

11.35 Made in Chelsea: Ibiza **12.35** How I Met Your Mother **1.35** The Goldbergs **4.00** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **4.15** The Big Bang Theory **7.50 Film:** Night at the Museum (2006) **10.00 Film:** The Host (2013) **12.25** Gogglebox **2.20** Rude Tube **3.15** Tattoo Fixers **4.10** How I Met Your Mother **4.55** Rude(ish) Tube

Film4

11.00 Courage Mountain (1990) **1.00** Dr Dolittle (1998) **2.40** Dr Dolittle 2 (2001) **4.20** Dr Dolittle 3 (2006) **6.10** Robin Hood (2010) **9.00** Riddick (2013) **11.20** Zombieland (2009) **1.00** Wake in Fright (1971) **3.15** Close

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Onions, rice, pine nuts, mixed spices, olive oil and vine leaves

HOT STARTER

SUCUK (GARLIC SAUSAGE)
Grilled Turkish Sausages

FALAFEL
Crushed broad beans, chickpeas, mixed peppers, onions, celery, coriander, garlic and herbs (deep fried)

GARLIC MUSHROOMS
Mushrooms cooked in tomato and garlic sauce with fresh cream

BOREK (FILO PASTRY)
Filo pastry filled feta cheese, parsley and baby spinach

MAIN COURSES / GRILL

MEAT MOUSSAKA
Sliced aubergine, minced meat, potatoes courgettes topped with cheese sauce, served with rice and salad

LAMB SAUTE
Cubes of lamb cooked with mixed peppers, mushrooms, onions, tomatoes and herbs served with rice

CHICKEN SAUTE
Cubes of chicken breast cooked with red peppers, green peppers, mushrooms, onions, tomatoes and herbs served with rice

KEBABS
Choice of following kebabs

CHICKEN SHISH
Adana Kofte, Chicken Kofte

CHICKEN WINGS

SALMON
Marinated salmon steak grilled on charcoal, served with salad and chips

CHICKEN PASTA
Mushrooms, mixed peppers, courgette with creamy sauce

DESSERTS

BAKLAVA
or
SUTLAC (RICE PUDDING)

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SUNDAY'S TV AUGUST 13

CHOICE

Pål Sverre Valheim Hagen

Valkyrien (BBC2, 10pm)
New series. Norwegian drama about a surgeon who refuses to accept that his terminally ill wife cannot be saved, and takes matters into his own hands. With the aid of an unhinged former patient, he turns a disused bunker underneath an underground station into his own illegal clinic where he can treat his comatose wife himself. However, his search for an elusive cure requires money, so he resorts to treating people who cannot seek medical help through official channels, from refugees to criminal gangs. In Norwegian. Full series available online.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.25** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** BBC News. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Wanted Down Under. (R) **2.00** Escape to the Continent. (R) **3.00** Flog It! (R) **4.00** Super Small Animals. (R) **5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.35** BBC News. **5.50** Regional Programme.

6.00 Countryfile. Anita Rani and Sean Fletcher present an episode exploring Dartmoor. Anita takes a trip along a trail that connects local artists and crafts people, meeting a blacksmith and learning to spin wool using traditional methods, while Sean investigates how unwanted Dartmoor pony foals that would normally be culled at birth can instead be used in therapy for people with learning difficulties.

7.00 Fake or Fortune? Fiona Bruce and art expert Philip Mould investigate the complex and controversial stories surrounding the origins of supposedly valuable works of art. (R)

8.00 World Athletics Championships 2017. Gabby Logan presents further coverage of the 10th and concluding evening at The London Stadium in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, featuring the finals of four more events. Asbel Kibrop and Caster Semenya will be among the favourites in the respective men's 1500m and women's 800m finals, before attention switches to the men's and women's 4x400m relays, both of which Great Britain will be hopeful of winning medals in should they be involved. With commentary by Steve Cram, Brendan Foster, Andrew Cotter and Steve Backley, and analysis from Michael Johnson, Denise Lewis and Colin Jackson.

10.00 BBC News.
10.20 Regional Programme.
10.30 Match of the Day 2.

11.30 Brendan Foster: A Life in Athletics. An insight into the career of the broadcaster and former athlete, who won gold as a long distance runner at the European Championships and Commonwealth Games in the 1970s. (R)

12.15 Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.20 BBC News.

BBC2

6.20 A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **7.05** The Instant Gardener. (R) **7.50** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.50** Countryfile. (R) **9.45** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.15** Nadiya's British Food Adventure. (R) **11.45** Lorraine's Fast, Fresh and Easy Food. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** World Athletics Championships 2017. Coverage of day 10. **4.30** Britain's Ancient Capital: Secrets of Orkney. (R) **5.30** Steve Backshall's Extreme Mountain Challenge. (R)

6.30 World Athletics Championships 2017. Gabby Logan presents coverage of the 10th and concluding evening at The London Stadium in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. Great Britain's Robbie Grabarz and Laura Muir will hope to be involved in the respective high jump and 5,000m finals, and medals are also decided in the women's discus. With commentary by Steve Cram, Brendan Foster, Andrew Cotter and Steve Backley, and analysis from Michael Johnson, Denise Lewis and Colin Jackson. Coverage continues on BBC1.

8.00 Secrets of Silicon Valley. Part two of two. Jamie Bartlett investigates the impact of technology on democracy, revealing how aspects of social media designed to benefit the advertising industry by gathering personal data about users can be used to influence voters and spread misinformation. Featuring contributions from a key insider on Donald Trump's presidential campaign.

9.00 North Korea: Murder in the Family. Documentary examining the murder of the North Korean dictator's half-brother Kim Jong-nam at Kuala Lumpur airport. The programme examines the activities of North Korean secret agents at the airport on the day of the killing, and reports on a powerful international business network that has allowed the Kim dynasty to remain in power for nearly 70 years.

10.00 Golf: USPGA Championship. Eilidh Barbour presents live coverage of the closing stages of day four at the fourth and final Major of the year, held at Quail Hollow Club in Charlotte, North Carolina. Live coverage begins on the interactive service at 7.00pm.

12.15 Film: The Body. (2012) **2.00** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R)

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Sooty. (R) **6.30** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Oddbods. (R) **7.05** Oddbods. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Ninjago: Rebooted. (R) **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Judge Rinder. (R) **10.25** Long Lost Family. (R) **11.25** Love Your Garden. (R) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.30** James Martin's French Adventure. (R) **1.00** Rebound. (R) **2.00** Women's Rugby World Cup 2017. England v Italy (Kick-off 2.30pm). **4.45** Bear Grylls Survival School. (R) **5.10** All Star Family Fortunes. (R)

6.10 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.15 ITV News; Weather.

6.30 The Chase Celebrity Special. Bradley Walsh presents as celebrity contestants Melanie Sykes, Heather Small, Andrew Castle and Graeme Le Saux pit their wits against ruthless quiz genius the Chaser in the hope of winning a potential prize pot worth thousands of pounds. They must work as a team and play strategically to answer general knowledge questions against the clock and race down the game board to the exit without being caught.

7.30 Film: Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1. (2010) The dark lord Voldemort rises to ultimate power over the magical world, so the teenage wizard and his friends set out on a mission to find the magical horcruxes – artefacts containing parts of the evil wizard's soul that hold the key to destroying him. The first half of the two-part conclusion to the fantasy saga, starring Daniel Radcliffe, Ralph Fiennes, Emma Watson and Rupert Grint.

10.15 ITV News; Weather.

10.35 Judge Rinder's Crime Stories. Barrister Robert Rinder examines the UK's biggest ever drugs bust and a robbery in a small Kent town in which £53million was stolen. Last in the series. (R)

11.35 Take Me Out. An account manager from Leeds, a housing executive from Belfast, a professional BMX rider from Portsmouth and an IT manager from Exeter try to impress 30 women and win a date. (R)

12.45 Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **4.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Jamie's Comfort Food. (R) **6.15** Last Man Standing. **6.40** Last Man Standing. **7.05** Last Man Standing. **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.30** The Simpsons. (R) **2.00** The Simpsons. (R) **2.30 Film:** Volcano. (1997) Disaster thriller, starring Tommy Lee Jones. **4.35** A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. (R) **5.35** Homes by the Med.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Film: Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb. (2014) Premiere. Nightwatchman Larry notices that the living exhibits of his museum are behaving strangely. He discovers that the magical artefact that brings them to life is damaged, so he and his friends travel to London's Natural History Museum to find a way to restore it. Fantasy comedy sequel, starring Ben Stiller, Rebel Wilson and Robin Williams in his final film role.

9.00 Valkyrien. New series. Norwegian drama about a surgeon who refuses to accept that his terminally ill wife cannot be saved, and takes matters into his own hands. With the aid of an unhinged former patient, he turns a disused bunker underneath an underground station into his own illegal clinic where he can treat his comatose wife himself. However, his search for an elusive cure requires money, so he resorts to treating people who cannot seek medical help through official channels, from refugees to criminal gangs. In Norwegian. Full series available online.

10.00 Gogglebox: The Best Bits. The best and funniest moments from the recent series, including armchair TV reviews of Culinary Genius, Britain's Got Talent, Line of Duty and Cruising with Jane McDonald. (R)

11.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Regular team captain Sean Lock and guest captain Sarah Millican are joined by Roisin Conaty and Rhod Gilbert, while David O'Doherty presides in Dictionary Corner. (R)

12.05 Film: Ouija. (2014) **1.35** 60 Days in Jail. (R) **2.30** Gillette World Sport. **2.55** KOTV Boxing Weekly. **3.20** Mobil 1 The Grid. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Poppy Cat. **6.10** Little Princess. (R) **6.25** Mr Men. (R) **6.35** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.40** Milkshake! Bopping About. (R) **6.45** Simon. (R) **6.50** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.55** Wissper. (R) **7.05** Bob the Builder. (R) **7.15** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.25** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.30** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.50** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.20** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.35** Floogals. (R) **8.50** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.05** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.15** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.30** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.40** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.25** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **11.25** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **11.55 Film:** Haunted Honeymoon. (1986) **1.30** Make You Laugh Out Loud. **2.00** Now That's Funny! (R) **3.00** Disobedient Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **4.00** Dads Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **5.00** Brides Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R)

6.00 Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud. Compilation of internet videos, including cats playing musical instruments, dressed in costumes and riding on vacuum cleaners. Narrated by Iain Lee, with commentary by Susan Calman. (R)

6.55 5 News Weekend.

7.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Agents Paul and Steve face a moral dilemma in south London, when they find out the tenant they have been instructed to evict is on his way to a funeral. (R)

8.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. In east London, High Court Enforcement Agents Paul and Phil are involved in a brothel eviction, while in south Wales, Stewart and Elmore chase a debt owed by a working mum. (R)

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Celebrity Big Brother. The ups and downs of life in the BB house as friendships and alliances are made, battle lines are drawn and arguments erupt.

10.05 Autopsy: Cory Monteith. The death of the Glee star.

11.05 Film: The Boy Next Door. (2008) A novelist becomes the prime suspect when her next door neighbour is murdered, so decides to investigate the case herself. Thriller, with Dina Meyer and Woody Jeffreys.

12.40 Criminals: Caught on Camera. (R) **1.05** SuperCasino. **3.10** Cat 8. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 BBC Proms 2017 **9.20** John Denver at Wembley Arena **10.00** The Sky at Night **10.30** Black Roses: The Killing of Sophie Lancaster **11.15** Return to Betjemanland **12.15** The Man Who Fought the Planners: The Story of Ian Nairn **1.15** Storyville: Russia's Toughest Prison – The Condemned **2.35** How Quizzing Got Cool: TV's Brains of Britain **3.35** Close

ITV2
11.50 Ninja Warrior UK **12.50** Mr Bean **1.55** You've Been Framed! Gold **2.25 Film:** Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium (2007) **3.25** FYI Daily **3.30 Film:** Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium (2007) **4.20 Film:** St Trinian's (2007) **5.25** FYI Daily **5.30 Film:** St Trinian's (2007) **6.15 Film:** Hotel Transylvania (2012) **7.15** FYI Daily **7.20 Film:** Hotel Transylvania (2012) **8.00 Film:** Crazy, Stupid, Love (2011) **9.05** FYI Daily **9.10 Film:** Crazy, Stupid, Love (2011) **10.20** Family Guy **11.50** American Dad! **1.15** The Cleveland Show **2.10** The Vamps: The Hot Desk **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
11.35 The Darling Buds of May **12.40** Heidi **2.55** Wycliffe **4.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **8.00** Midsomer Murders **10.00** Law & Order: UK **12.00** Wire in the Blood **2.00** Lewis **3.40** Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of Four **5.30** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4
11.00 Live British Touring Car Championship. Round seven from Knockhill. **6.15** Hat-Trick Heroes **6.30** Storage Wars **7.00** World Series of Darts: Auckland **11.00 Film:** American History X (1998) **12.10** FYI Daily **12.15 Film:** American History X (1998) **1.25** BRDC Formula 3 Championship Highlights **2.30** Tommy Cooper **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
11.00 Made in Chelsea: Ibiza **12.05 Film:** Escape from Planet Earth (2013) **1.50** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **2.00** Kevin Can Wait **2.30** The Goldbergs **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** Beautiful Creatures (2013) **10.25** Don't Tell the Bride **11.30** Tattoo Fixers on Holiday **12.35** Body Fixers **1.40** Gogglebox **2.25** Rude Tube **3.45** Hollyoaks

Film4
11.00 Thunderbirds Are Go! (1966) **1.00** Picture Perfect (1997) **3.00** Dragonball Evolution (2009) **4.40** Shrek (2001) **6.25** The Way Back (2010) **9.00** The Heat (2013) **11.20** Vertigo (1958) **1.55** Hitchcock/Truffaut (2015) **3.40** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Heart of the Country, Channel 5, 3.15pm
The wife of a Wall Street stockbroker finds her glamorous existence brought crashing to a halt when her husband is imprisoned for fraud. Forced to return to rural North Carolina where she grew up, she attempts to make peace with her estranged father and deal with unresolved issues surrounding the death of her mother. Drama, starring Jana Kramer and Gerald McRaney. (2013)

TUESDAY
I Didn't Kill My Sister, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Heather works as an assistant to her news presenter sister Carmen but never seems to get a break of her own. Nevertheless she is there to pick up the pieces when the more successful sibling's marriage breaks down – only to be accused of murder when Carmen is found dead. Thriller, starring Nicholle Tom, Gina Holden and Chris William Martin. (2015)

The Client, Friday, BBC1, 11.05pm

WEDNESDAY
Baby Sellers, Channel 5, 3.15pm
The owner of an adoption agency maintains a respectable reputation, while secretly the children she provides to desperate clients are obtained by illegal means. A customs agent develops suspicions about the criminal network behind the trade in kidnapped infants and tries to expose the scandal. Crime drama, starring Jennifer Finnigan and Kirstie Alley. (2013)

THURSDAY
After All These Years, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A woman learns her husband intends to leave her for another woman shortly before their wedding anniversary. She goes on the run after becoming a suspect when he is found murdered, intending to identify the real killer with the aid of her friends and an old flame. Mystery, starring Wendie Malick and Gregory Harrison. (2013)

FRIDAY
The Client, BBC1, 11.05pm
A boy with information about a politician's disappearance hires a lawyer to protect him from the Mafia. Courtroom thriller, starring Susan Sarandon, Tommy Lee Jones and Brad Renfro. (1994)

PICK OF THE WEEK

Celebrities hope to serve up a tasty treat in new series

The BBC may have lost The Great British Bake Off to Channel 4, but it clearly hasn't lost its appetite for cooking competitions.

This week alone sees the launch of The Big Family Cooking Showdown on BBC2 and a new series of Celebrity MasterChef. And it's clear that the nation's famous faces also still love a culinary contest, as an impressive number of them have signed up to have their dishes judged by John Torode and Gregg Wallace.

Among the stars lined up to compete are Olympic swimmer Rebecca Adlington, Citizen Khan actor and comedian Abdullah Afzal and Gogglebox's woman of the cloth, the Rev Kate Bottley.

There's also singer and actress Patti Boulaye, Coronation Street and Gimme, Gimme, Gimme actor Brian Bovell, and Outnumbered's Tyger Drew-Honey, who is now all grown up and able to make his own tea.

Future weeks will see appearances from opera singer Lesley Garrett, Radio 1 presenter Dev Griffin, Blue Peter co-host Barney Harwood and Union J pop star Jaymi Hensley, as well as TV personality Ulrika Jonsson, radio and TV journalist Aasmah Mir, Harry Potter actor Nick Moran and S Club 7 veteran Rachel Stevens. There's also radio presenter Debbie McGee, a name many viewers of a certain age still can't hear without mentally adding 'the lovely' to it.

It's a decent line up, as BBC commissioning editor Carla-Maria Lawson confirms: "Celebrity MasterChef is an astonishing test of culinary ability from people who are not recognised for their talents in the kitchen. Every year we are blown away by celebrity's gastronomic prowess and this year doesn't disappoint.

"The line-up is one of the strongest we have ever seen and we hope it will entertain and tantalise viewers in equal measure."

However, there's a name in the first episode that some viewers may struggle to recognise – Jim Moir. You'll definitely know the face though, as he's the comedian and actor better known as Vic Reeves.

He's joined in the first episode by TV presenter Angellica Bell, seven-time snooker world champion Stephen Hendry, presenter Julia Somerville and French tennis legend Henri Leconte.

Their first challenge is the Mystery Box, as they are given a variety of ingredients, including lamb loin, goats cheese, butternut squash and rhubarb, and challenged to create one dish from scratch in just an hour.

Once that's over with, the celebrities are split into two groups for their first experience of cooking in a professional kitchen for paying customers. The men head to Aster, which is heavily influenced by Nordic and French cuisine, while Angellica and Julia are sent to Temper. But can they keep up a united front as they try to keep on top of the orders?

Finally for this episode, the celebs return to MasterChef HQ to prepare a two-course menu of their own design in just one hour.

Celebrity MasterChef, Wednesday, BBC1, 8pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Child Genius
Channel 4, 8pm
Richard Osman returns with the competition to find the nation's brightest child, with 20 of the country's cleverest eight to 12-year-olds – and their parents – battling it out for the title. Broadcast over six consecutive evenings, the contest opens with the demanding Spelling and complex Linguistic Memory rounds – testing the participants on their recall of the Latin and Greek-derived scientific names of 60 fruit and vegetables, with three kids having to leave the tournament after these two challenges.

TUESDAY
Quacks
BBC2, 10pm
It's over a year since the BBC announced that filming would be starting on Quacks, a sitcom set in the medical world of the 1840s. Will it prove to be worth the wait? Well, let's hope so. The six-part series focuses on a group of doctors whose profession is in its infancy - they are as likely to kill their patients as they are to cure them, and they experimented on each other as well as themselves. What's more, operating theatres were just that – open to all who wanted to watch the often flamboyant surgeons at work as they tried out potentially revolutionary, not to mention gory, procedures. Mathew Baynton heads the cast as a fledgling psychiatrist. Others involved include Rory Kinnear (as an arrogant surgeon), and Lydia Leonard as a headstrong social campaigner. Rupert Everett has been lined up to guest star.

WEDNESDAY
Saving Lives at Sea
BBC2, 8pm
New series. The story of the volunteer lifeboat crews and lifeguards of the RNLI who rescue thousands of people and save hundreds of lives around our coastline and on the River Thames every year. In the first episode, a father and daughter find themselves treading water for almost an hour hundreds of metres out at sea, and three fishermen swim for their lives as their trawler is smashed onto rocks in Ireland. Elsewhere in London, an unlucky tourist is minutes from hypothermia after falling into the Thames.

THURSDAY
Who Do You Think You Are?
BBC1, 8pm
Lulu has always wanted to get to the bottom of a family mystery. She knows that her mother, the middle child of seven, was the only one to be given up by her birth parents and raised by another family. But she has no idea why. Travelling home to Glasgow, she uncovers the real-life Romeo and Juliet story of her Catholic grandfather and Protestant grandmother's love affair across the city's strict sectarian divide. But as she digs deeper, she discovers dark secrets that force her to reassess her mum's story.

Child Genius, Monday, Channel 4, 8pm

FRIDAY
Mastermind
BBC2, 8pm
One of the highlights of last Christmas was watching Hacker T Dog steal the show in Celebrity Mastermind's black chair as he answered a series of head-scratching questions. As series 15 of the regular run continues, it's only humans allowed as question master John Humphrys continues his quest to find the 2017 champion. Previous specialist subjects have included flags of the world and the colour films of Danny Kaye, but as regular viewers know only too well, an impressive round in the first half can be undone if the player's general knowledge is weak. Let's hope the latest brave contestants are good all-rounders as Humphrys starts and finishes another gripping show.

8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown
Channel 4, 9pm
In the history of British TV, it's almost unheard of that two mashed up panel games work so well that the hybrid becomes more popular than the original. Of course that's just what happened with Jimmy Carr's 8 Out of 10 Cats, which as we all know took cosy afternoon show Countdown and injected its own brand of post-watershed mayhem into the proceedings. Now it's back for a new run, and while Sean Lock is off doing other things, Alan Carr steps in as guest captain, alongside Kevin Bridges. They'll be taking on series regular Jon Richardson and his team mate Cariad Lloyd. Joining lexicographer Susie Dent in Dictionary Corner is Elis James and John Robins, while maths wiz Rachel Riley looks after the numbers and letters as usual.

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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

14	26	13	14	14	22	■	12	2	18	19	19	1
■	7	■	19	■	18	■	2	■	17	■	■	25
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15	■	7	■	■	■	25	■	■	■	16	■	3
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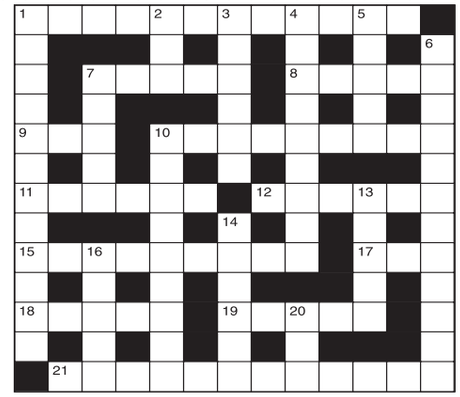
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1 K	2 H	3 X	4 E	5 G	6 R	7 Q	8 J	9 Y	10 C	11 A	12 T	13 L
14 P	15 O	16 F	17 D	18 S	19 M	20 U	21 I	22 N	23 B	24 Z	25 W	26 V

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. It's dated even before use in the office (4,8)
7. Prepared to explode - or not to explode (5)
8. Got us to play zest (5)
9. Manage a chicken enclosure (3)
10. Well, no one wants it! (9)
11. Stops, we hear, for spells of recreation (6)
12. Temporarily stop work (3,3)
15. A roundabout way to come in (9)
17. Runner in a vigorous kind of winter sport (3)
18. Famous lover who had capital and nothing more (5)
19. The listener gets two points and wins (5)
21. Greek caterin' is a form of extortion! (12)

Down

1. Marketing agents for car engine components (12)
2. A company's plant (3)
3. Firemen will use it, though it may ruin the hose (6)
4. Right name for a bad dream (9)
5. Possibly lies under a part of the church (5)
6. Existing expenditure (4,2,6)
7. Pale chap a thief may turn to (5)
10. Shopkeepers must - shoplifters do (4,5)
13. Well-equipped place for caravans en route (5)
14. Straightforward form of credit (6)
16. Dance from Burma (5)
20. The French way to feel regret (3)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Remembrance (12)
7. Defraud (5)
8. Backbone (5)
9. Vegetable (3)
10. Short pistol (9)
11. Zest (6)
12. Lax (6)
15. Slowcoaches (9)
17. Purpose (3)
18. Senior (5)
19. Boundary (5)
21. Festivities (12)

Down

1. Convalescence (12)
2. Fib (3)
3. Whole (6)
4. Irritability (9)
5. Due (5)
6. Light meal (12)
7. Creep (5)
10. Conversation (9)
13. Unfit (5)
14. Stableman (6)
16. Crest (5)
20. Rug (3)

Sudoku

		7	4				5	
5		9	2			4	1	
	1				8			3
	4	6	3					
1				7	9			2
					4	6	9	
2			9					6
	9				2	1		4
	3		1		6	9		

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

1	2	5	3	8	7	4	6	9
3	4	9	5	6	1	2	8	7
8	6	7	2	9	4	1	3	5
7	3	8	6	5	2	9	1	4
9	1	2	7	4	3	8	5	6
4	5	6	9	1	8	3	7	2
5	9	1	8	2	6	7	4	3
2	7	4	1	3	5	6	9	8
6	8	3	4	7	9	5	2	1

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 4 Escorts; 8 Loaded; 9 Oratory; 10 Ticked; 11 Ice-cap; 12 Opposing; 18 Set about; 20 Cannot; 21 Ailing; 22 Recount; 23 Charge; 24 Stamped. Down: 1 Elation; 2 Madcaps; 3 Levels; 5 Straight; 6 Outset; 7 Tartan; 13 Instance; 14 Topiary; 15 Stagger; 16 Latent; 17 Inform; 19 Alight.
QUICK - Across: 4 Acolyte; 8 Inured; 9 Uncanny; 10 Raisin; 11 Relief; 12 Fracture; 18 Heedless; 20 Apiece; 21 Inside; 22 Believe; 23 Desist; 24 Fragile. Down: 1 Midriff; 2 Musical; 3 Depict; 5 Concrete; 6 Liable; 7 Tender; 13 Upheaval; 14 Deficit; 15 Aspects; 16 Appear; 17 Seeing; 19 Dinner.

Quiz

1. The Ural Mountains form part of the boundary between which two continents?
2. What type of creature is a sand hopper?
3. In which soap did Herman's Hermits' Peter Noone briefly appear?
4. Which US author's debut novel was The Naked and the Dead?
5. Which actor was the father of Sarah Siddons?
6. What do we call the extinct African volcano Kirinyaga?
7. To whom was Alastair Campbell Press Secretary until 2000?
8. What nationality was dancer Dame Ninette de Valois?
9. Which city was at the centre of the 1995 Japanese earthquake?
10. Who designed Marble Arch?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Pacific; 2 Monkey; 3 Jainism; 4 Switzerland; 5 Australia; 6 Cavy; 7 Truro; 8 Parsnip; 9 Richard Gordon; 10 Precious metals and gems.

Niner: SOLEMNITY

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

7394 gives a Biblical character,
85821 gives a Biblical character,
176294 gives a Jewish prophet.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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Take my advice – its' time to unwind

HAVE a facial once a month and get help in the house. Those were the words of wisdom given to TV presenter Anne Robinson by her mother when she got married.

Now maybe the Weakest Link ice queen has taken her facial work to another level, but as pieces of advice go her mother had it pretty much bang on.

With our busy lives, at work and at play, we all need to take a little time out every now and again for a bit of pampering and tranquility. And what better therapy is there for a weary body and soul than a day of relaxation, calm and rejuvenating beauty treatments at a spa. Especially if you go with a friend or family member for some real quality time.

Virtually on our doorstep here is the Telford Hotel & Golf Resort nestling in 170 acres of Shropshire countryside with panoramic views of the Ironbridge Gorge.

RENOVATED

The recently renovated health club has an incredible indoor swimming pool with an abundance of beds, including the heavenly- heated loungers, a sauna and a steam room, six spa treatment rooms and a serene relaxation room.

Guests can stay in the hotel for a nice spa break or there are very reasonable spa day packages offered.

I opted for a sneaky away day and this included use of all the facilities – even the gym if you are so inclined – use of robes, slippers and towels, and what was said to be a 'light lunch' but in fact included soup, a choice of wraps, salad and a dessert options. I highly recommend the lemon cheesecake.

You can enjoy all of this for just £39 a person – a small price to pay for the health benefits it brings and a day well spent. Though while enjoying the facilities most guests want to experience a treatment or two to really ease those muscles, refresh the skin and maybe glam up a little. We tried out the new ESPA Personalised Express Facial. Any facial is a bit of self indulgence but this really does feel like some luxury pampering – and it is tailored just for you.

Take time out to enjoy Telford Hotel Spa

Just lie back, close your eyes and relax – bliss!

The beauty therapist first uses a SkinVision lamp which, though I had to have my eyes closed, seems to pass a blue light over your face to detect your real skin type and any problem areas. Then the therapist can use the various creams and ointments that best suit you.

My skin was confirmed as combination skin and she showed me where there were areas of dryness and 'congestion' – I think this meant blackheads!

Armed with this information I underwent a thorough cleanse, tone, moisturising and a soothing face mask. This was made all the more relaxing as it was accompanied by a head and shoulders massage.

Lying in a semi-comatose state in the darkened room, tranquil music playing in the background, and with my constricted muscles turning to jelly, the thought passed through my mind that life really does not get any better than this. And 55 minutes later it seemed to have done the trick – when I left the treatment room my skin felt softer and a little more 'elasticky', not the usual dry and taut complexion of a tired, working mother.

One of the spa packages is the Little Slice of Heaven which includes all of the facilities and lunch but also four 25-minute treatments such as a nail file and polish, facial, pedicure and back, neck and shoulder massage.

With all this on offer at such good value surely we can all think about a once-a-month lift. Good advice indeed.

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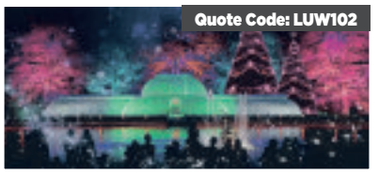
AND LONDON
Quote Code: LUW102

Saturday departures, 2 & 16 December 2017
See Kew's winter landscape at night as an enchanting Illuminated Trail of music and lights leads you round the Gardens as you have never seen them before...
Price Includes...
✔ Overnight stay at a 3 or 4 star hotel within 30 miles of central London with full English breakfast
✔ Timed admission ticket to the Kew Gardens Illuminated Trail
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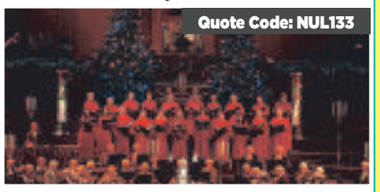
Single room supplements £30pp. Subject to availability.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT
at the Royal Albert Hall
Quote Code: NUL133

Departing Saturday 16 December 2017
Take time out in the final countdown to Christmas to enjoy this candle-lit concert of popular carols, classical pieces and readings, all exquisitely staged in 18th-century costume. This great-value break also includes free time for last-minute gift shopping..
Price Includes...
✔ Overnight stay at a 3 or 4 star hotel within 30 miles of central London with full English breakfast
✔ A Circle ticket (face value £26.47) for the Saturday evening performance of Carols by Candlelight (upgrades available)
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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Appealing home in a spacious, modern design

An appealing property in a spacious, modern design, 33 Eagle Lane, Great Bridge, Tipton, also benefits from a single storey extension to the rear.

An ideal four-bedroomed family property, it is for sale through Tom Giles & Co at £279,950.

It is situated in a convenient location within walking distance of Great Bridge Town Centre which has comprehensive shopping facilities and public transport services with links into West Bromwich, Wednesdbury, Dudley, Birmingham and other surrounding areas.

Built in approximately 2000, the property has been enlarged by the current owner with a single storey extension at the rear of the original kitchen, which has created a large L-shaped kitchen/diner. The garage has also been converted into a sitting room and open plan living has been created to what was the entrance hall, lounge and dining room.

With gas central heating, double glazing and a private rear garden, this property stands setback from the roadside behind a driveway and lawned garden. It has a lounge with laminate flooring and a wooden fireplace surround housing a Living flame gas fire and double patio doors to the dining area. The sitting room also has laminate flooring covering, halogen down lighters and double doors opening into the lounge.

There is also a lobby with laminate flooring and a cloakroom/WC with ceramic tiled flooring.

A staircase leads from the lobby to the first floor. Bedroom one is positioned to the rear and has an en-suite shower room with ceramic tiled flooring. Bedroom two overlooks the front while bedroom three has views over the rear garden. Bedroom four is positioned to the front.

The family bathroom has a white suite, vinyl flooring and half height tiling.

At the rear of the property is a private established garden having a paved area, central paved footpath with lawn either side, borders containing an abundance of flowering plants, privet hedgerow and fencing.

There is also a summer house.

TIPTON £279,950

TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

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EMAIL: general@tomgiles.net

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Two-bed has spacious accommodation

ROWLEY REGIS
£119,950

A brilliant size two-bedroom home, this end terrace home in Habberley Road, Rowley Regis, offers spacious living accommodation.

It is for sale through Love Your Postcode for offers in excess of £119,950.

The front driveway of this home offers space for two vehicles as well as benefiting from off-road parking.

The accommodation briefly comprises a reception room with bay windows overlooking the driveway. From the reception room is the kitchen zone featuring storage and utilities.

The first floor has two good-sized bedrooms and a family bathroom.

Contact the agent on 0121 396 0704.

Well-presented mid terraced house close to amenities

WEST BROMWICH
£124,950 <<<

A very well presented two-bedroomed mid-terraced house in Church Vale, West Bromwich lies a short distance away from local schools, amenities, travel links and is also within walking distance of Sandwell Hospital.

It is for sale through Skitts at £124,950.

Also within walking distance to Dartmouth Park the property benefits from gas central heating and double glazing. Its accommodation briefly comprises of a lounge, a dining room, kitchen, downstairs bathroom, two bedrooms, a shower room and a rear garden.

For further information, or to book that all important viewing to see if this is the ideal next home for you, contact Skitts on 0121 520 2255 or visit www.skitts.net

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Well-presented town house is in popular area

In a popular residential area, this modern three-storey town house in Railway Street, Tipton, is superbly presented, having immaculate accommodation which is ideal for a family.

Beautifully presented and very spacious, this home comes with double glazing and gas central heating, and is for sale through Paul Dubberley at £177,995.

Its accommodation briefly comprises of a reception hall, a

TIPTON
£177,995

guest cloakroom/WC, a lounge and a fitted kitchen to to the ground floor.

On the first floor you will find bedrooms two and three – which both have fitted wardrobes – and the family bathroom.

On the second floor is bedroom one, which comes with a dressing area and fitted wardrobes and an en-suite shower room. Outside is a well-kept rear garden which has lawn and a decking area. There is also a garage.

The selling agents are expecting a great deal of interest to be shown in the sale of this charming property.

For further information, or to book that all important viewing to see if this is the ideal next home for you, contact the selling agents on 0121 5223733.

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NEW

POUND ROAD, OLDBURY £175,000
3 1 1
Good sized end of terrace property located on a corner plot with potential for extension subject to planning. Popular location with added benefit of box room/study. EARLY VIEWING RECOMMENDED

NEW

OLDBURY SCHOOL CLOSE £139,950
3 1 1
We are pleased to offer this semi-detached house warranting full internal inspection situated in a popular and convenient residential location. Double glazing and gas central heating. Off road parking for two vehicles and low maintenance private garden at rear. EPC Rating C

NEW

OLDBURY FARM ROAD £89,950
2 2 1
End of terrace property in need of improvement and modernisation offering an IDEAL INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY. Double glazing and gas central heating (where specified). Low maintenance garden at rear. EPC Rating E

OLDBURY HARBORNE ROAD £365,000
4 2 1
Extended traditional semi-detached house warranting full internal inspection with double glazing, gas central heating, built-in appliances in kitchen, built-in bedroom furniture in two bedrooms and private established rear garden. EPC Rating E

TIPTON EAGLE LANE £279,950
4 2 1
Extended modern detached house in popular and convenient location with a delightful Summer House in the rear garden. Ensuite shower to main bedroom, private rear garden, off-road parking, EARLY INSPECTION TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT. EPC Rating C

TIVIDALE LOWER CITY ROAD £229,950
3 2 1
A detached property situated in one of the areas most sought after locations with potential to extend to side and rear subject to Planning and Building Consent. In need of some improvement. EPC Rating E

TIVIDALE NEW BIRMINGHAM ROAD £220,000
2 2 1
A detached bungalow in need of general updating and decoration but offering good sized accommodation. Central heating, double glazing, established gardens to front and rear, double garage and off-road parking. EPC Rating F

WEST BROMWICH BEXLEY GROVE £174,950
3 2 1
Traditional semi-detached house in need of general updating and with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Potential for extension subject to planning. Double glazing, central heating (where specified) conservatory, off-road parking and rear garden. EPC Rating E

OLDBURY EAST AVENUE £119,950
3 1 1
Terraced house in need of general updating offering ideal first time purchase or investment opportunity with the benefit of central heating, double glazing, garden to front, parking at rear and low maintenance garden. EPC Rating D

OLDBURY ASHWOOD CLOSE £77,500
2 1 1
Modern first floor flat situated in popular and convenient location providing an IDEAL INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY as the flat is currently let at rent of £495 pcm. Allocated parking and communal gardens. EPC Rating B

WEST BROMWICH HOLLYHEDGE ROAD £32,950
A lucrative Hair Dressing Salon Business including good will fixtures and fittings plus stock at valuation in a prominent location comprising of salon area, stores, W.C. and kitchen are with access to rear of premises and garage. EPC Rating F. SALE OF BUSINESS ONLY.

TO LET

OLDBURY BRISTNALL HALL ROAD £625 pcm
3 2 1
Spacious semi-detached house within catchment area for sought after infant, junior and senior schools, central heating, double glazing, off-road parking, large garden to rear. Deposit: £900 EPC Rating E.

TO LET

WEST BROMWICH SIDDONS WAY £625 pcm
2 1 1
Modern end of terrace house in convenient location, central heating, double glazing, driveway and rear garden with storage shed. DEPOSIT £850. EPC Rating C

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Wynn Griffith Drive, Tipton — £87,500 OFFERS
1 | 1 | 1 | EPC C

Burnt Tree, Tipton — £120,995 OFFERS
1 | 3 | 1 | EPC D

Crownmeadow Drive, Tipton — £135,000 OFFERS
2 | 2 | 1 | EPC TBC

Brookfield Way, Tipton — £159,950 OFFERS
1 | 3 | 1 | EPC TBC

Coles Lane, West Bromwich — £159,950 OFFERS
2 | 3 | 1 | EPC F

Gospel Oak Road, Tipton — O/O £165,000
1 | 3 | 1 | EPC B

Kiniths Way, West Bromwich — £179,950 OFFERS
2 | 3 | 1 | EPC D

Stoney Lane, West Bromwich — £194,950 OFFERS
1 | 2 | 1 | EPC D

Hartland Road, Tipton — £240,000 OFFERS
2 | 3 | 1 | EPC E

Brunel Drive, Tipton — £115,000 OFFERS
1 | 2 | 1 | EPC C

Jonah Drive, Tipton — £127,500 OFFERS
1 | 2 | 1 | EPC B

Meyrick Road, West Bromwich — O/O £140,000
1 | 2 | 1 | EPC B

Newcomen Drive, Tipton — £140,000 OFFERS
1 | 3 | 1 | EPC C

Powis Avenue, Tipton — £155,000 OFFERS
2 | 3 | 1 | EPC D

Charlemont Avenue, West Bromwich — £219,950 OFFERS
2 | 3 | 1 | EPC D

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2 E-mail us at... mark.moore@expressandstar.co.uk
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A CHEAP RUBBISH REMOVAL 7 DAYS
Small Jobs NO PROBLEM
We load, No Skips, Free Estimates
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Classified Ads

Buy Local, **Sell** Local

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7 Jobs
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lost & found

LOST—Cat, orange black and white cat, missing from Elliotts Lane, Codsall, last seen July 23. Please check sheds / garages. 07932 000832.

1 Family

elderly & disabled

KYMO MINI Mobility scooter, very good condition, new batteries c/w front basket charger and keys, fits car boot. £245 ono. 07541 015230.

MOBILITY SCOOTER
Cordoba Shopper, as new, can go on the road, immaculate condition.
£900 ono.
07966 029852.

WANTED Stairlift for straight staircase. Will remove if necessary. 0121 588 6064.

2 Leisure Time

bikes

FOLDING COMMUTER BICYCLE, with dynamo lights, as new, £45. 07724 156331 (Rugeley).

TANDEM 21 SPEED Aluminium wheels, good condition, £160. 01922 492321.

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caravans / motorhomes

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GIANT THURSDAY CAR BOOT SALE
This Thursday and every Thursday 6am - 2pm at
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Tel: 07831 192 116

CAR BOOT SALES!
Every Sunday
and Bank Holiday Monday
Muckley Corner, Hall Lane, Lichfield, WS14 0BE
Booters £4
6.00am-2pm
07538 842842

jumble sales / fetes

JUMBLE SALE AND BRIC A BRAC
Saturday, August 12 at 12 noon.
St Mark's Church Hall
Ocker Hill Road
DY4 0UT

holidays

travel abroad

READERS ARE REMINDED to check with any Advertisers that their holiday costs are fully covered by a recognised bonding or insurance scheme.

what's on

antique fairs

ANTIQUE/ COLLECTORS VINTAGE FAIR
CORNBOW HALL, HAGLEY STREET, HALESOWEN, B63 3AT
18TH AUGUST
8.00AM - 4PM
07783 680 627

markets

STOURBRIDGE CAR BOOT
At Stourbridge Rugby Club
Open every Wednesday from 24th May
07957 399964

table top sale

HILL TOP METHODIST CHURCH
New Street, Hill Top
West Bromwich
B70 0HW
TABLE TOP SALE
Saturday, August 19.
9am to 1pm
£5 per table
To book ring Ann
0121 556 4726 or 07896 163130.

3 Home & Services

mind, body & soul

massage

MOBILE Aromatherapy Massage Therapist Home / Hotel. To book appointments call 07437 569187.

furniture

LIQUIDATION SALE
EVERYTHING MUST GO
All Fashion Beds - Sleigh Beds, Metal, Iron and Ottoman Beds
UPTO 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT PLUS
(Subject to status)

Over 1000 Mattresses in stock whether its Budgets, Orthopaedic, Memory Foam or Pocket Sprung. We are your One Stop Bed Shop - We manufacture every conceivable mattress at the lowest factory direct prices - Cheap Junior Matts from £29.00 - Medium quality matts from £39.00 - Ortho and Memory Foam from £59.00 - Complete Divan Beds from £79.00 - Fashion & Bunk Beds in designer metal and wood. Ottoman Storage and Drawer Divans - You name it we have got it at the right price made to measure sizes and special requests a speciality. Factory Shop open 7 days major credit cards welcome

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DISPLAY MODELS
EG GUVNOR RECLINERIN WINE
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NOW £299

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household appliances

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Credit cards taken • Free quotes
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Freephone 0500 506041 or 01922 712184

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£17 each (inc vat)
WS3 2BQ
Bloxwich Fencing Ltd
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items for sale

ASH RECLAMATION
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UPVC doors and windows
New and Used
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Lichfield Road, Brownhills, WS8 6JZ
01543 453222
07956 627367

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That the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

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Highly Recommended!
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pc's, laptops & accessories

CLIENT COMPUTERS

Certified technician & Microsoft partner.
Repair & maintain laptops and PCs. In West Midlands.
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Windows problems etc.
Home visits or bring to me.
Long established.
Laptops available.
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t.v. / home entertainment

service

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specialists at your service

aerials

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Servicing and Repairs
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All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
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building services

AD DAMP PROOFING
APPROVED CONTRACTOR
All damp problems, roofing, building & plastering work
FREE QUOTES
07538 118034 or 01902 752161

building supplies

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SPR CARPENTRY Six internal pre-primed doors fully fitted from £370. 0121 5322672 or 07958 552625.

carpet fitters

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fencing

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SPECIAL OFFER
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Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.
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DELIVERY AVAILABLE
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Michael- Portway Fencing

For great business results call
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gardening services

Landywood Tree & Landscaping Services
All garden work, tree felling/lopping, pruning, hedges trimmed, turf, patios, fencing, block-paving etc.
www.landywoodlandscaping.co.uk
01922 898 710 / 07973 177 976

H. COOPER & SON Landscaping / garden maintenance. No job too small, Free Quotes: 07904 929632.

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gas fitting

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It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

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DARLASTON FABS 30 years exp in supplying/ fitting gates and railings. Free quotes: 07497 667752.

handyman services

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Mr Causer.

For great business results call
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FREE QUOTES
All work guaranteed, Most trades covered, References available on request. No job too big or too small!
CALL MIKE: 07947 621047
0121 6010479

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LOCK & CARPENTRY Plumbing, Small job specialist. Free quotes 01902 683100 or 07934 460864.

house clearances

A1 HOUSE CLEARANCE
Full, part and single rubbish removed.
Garage and sheds cleared. Leather 3 piece suites and leather chesterfields wanted.
01922 492007

A1 HOUSE CLEARANCE
Full, part and single rubbish removed.
Garage and sheds cleared. Leather 3 piece suites and leather chesterfields wanted.
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Professional family run business
House clearances full or part, also garages, sheds etc.
Telephone Kev
07794 912844

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lock services

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Free quotes. All work guaranteed
01922 606503 / 07519 694516

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plumbing & heating

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No job too small or large.
Call Will for a free quote
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LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
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CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

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KT REMOVALS 12 yrs exp. Single items to full load removals. Local / distance. Call Ric: 07771 727119.

roofing

We specialise in:
New Roofing, Re Roofing, Leak Repairs, Emergency Repairs, Lead Work, Tiling and Slating.
07935 595180 0121 4204374
www.stoppsandpage.co.uk

rubbish removal

LETS TALK RUBBISH No Skips Needed.Load/Remove any Waste, House Clearance. 07969 628382

skip hire

A absolute affordable skip
RUSSELL SKIPS
Mini, midi skips
Prompt delivery / collection
(0121) 520 3388 / 07721 387990

GOLDSHILL SKIPS
Bring your own waste cheaper than skips. General, Green, Wood waste any size vehicle. Phone for prices:
0121 557 3346

AAA SKIP HIRE All sizes available, competitive prices. Call: 01922 711411(option 2) or 07592 940556.

STONES SKIP HIRE 0121 557 1480 / 07886 721875 www.stoneskiphire.co.uk

upholstery

MR B'S UPHOLSTERY
RE- UPHOLSTERING OF SOFA'S, DINING FURNITURE, CARAVANS, CAR RETRIMS AND MORE.
www.mrbsupholstery.co.uk
01543 500677 07738 851601

FreeAds
IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
For items upto £250.
Online at
bookanad.
expressandstar.co.uk

4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies have the required Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

WINCHESTER MODEL 101 XTR LIGHTWEIGHT 12GA OU SHOTGUN
28in barrels,
no shakes or rattles.
£500 or very near offer
SG Licence holders only.
Box Number P20884,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

pets corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering into any obligations.

business directory

commercial premises

UNITS AND OFFICE SPACE to let in Oldbury, West Bromwich and Walsall. Easy Terms. Ashmore Properties 0121 520 5318.

6 Property

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

properties wanted

WE PAY 100% of purchase price EVERY TIME!
FAST 4 Your House CASH
BLACK COUNTRY HOMES
You agree the price, we buy the house...
• NO AGENTS FEES • COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
• FREE SOLICITORS • ANY HOUSE, ANY CONDITION
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Need to sell your home fast?
We can help you make a fresh start
With solutions to suit ...
you can clear your debts and make a fresh start
Purchase Agreed Within **7 DAYS**
ALL CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDERED
COMPLETE ON DATE TO SUIT
FREE VALUATION AND LEGALS
FREE FRIENDLY ADVICE
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MARION | PROPERTY SOLUTIONS
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*Terms and Conditions apply
OUR LINES ARE OPEN 24/7

Home Cash Buyer
Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££
Houses / Land Required
Ring Paul 24/7 Local **07870 341 089**
Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

THANK YOU CLASSIFIEDS!
"I am really pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising! Our directory page on expressandstar.com has generated extra activity on our website."
Paul Westwood - Home Cash Buyer
For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

accommodation to let

J9 Accommodation
NO DEPOSIT
★MOVE IN TODAY★
Studios *from* **£90pw***
Rooms *from* **£65pw***
**Includes Most Bills*
CHECK WEBSITE FOR LIVE LIST
Midland Landlord Accreditation Scheme
01902 213121
J9accommodation.com

NOTICE TO READERS
It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments/contracts.

WALSALL HOUSE and rooms in shared house, £70pw all bills included. 07825 581676.

7 Jobs

building & construction

AMP SCAFFOLDING 7.5 Tonne Scaffold/Labourer Drivers required. Also carded scaffolding Gangs Call 0121 580 0389

full time - general

CV MATCHING. IT'S QUICK, EASY AND FREE
Real opportunities for you
jobs.expressandstar.com
REAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU

ACME SPRINGS

TOOLSETTER
MULTI SLIDE MACHINES AND FLYPRESSES

A West Bromwich based spring making company has an immediate vacancy for an experienced tool setter and spring maker for a small but busy press shop.

Duties will include setting and operating four slide machines and CNC Multislide Strip and Wire-formers and the setting of both hand, bench presses and power presses. The ideal candidate should be experienced in multislide and four slide operation, however consideration will be given to candidates with some experience. The ability to work on one's own initiative will be beneficial as will the ability to work to the controls of ISO EN BS 9001:2008.

Good clean bright working conditions, 37 hours per week (8.00am-4.00) Monday to Friday.

Apply in writing in the first instance with CV to-
The Managing Director,
The Acme Spring Co. Ltd
Brandon Way, West Bromwich B70 9PQ
e-mail acmespring@aol.com
pjwhandley@btinternet.com

courses

BIRMINGHAM: 25-26 SEPT & 30 NOV.-1 DEC.
STOKE: 2-3 SEPT. **TELFORD:** 23-24 OCT.
WOLVERHAMPTON: 16-17 SEPT.
Learn how to take blood
TRAIN AS A PHLEBOTOMIST
NATIONALLY RECOGNISED AND ACCREDITED
Introduction to Phlebotomy
TWO DAY COURSE - National UK Qualification
NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE REQUIRED
ocn Credit4Learning
For more info or to book: **www.geopace.com**
HIGH DEMAND IN: Hospitals - GP Surgeries - Clinics - Private Sector - Community - MOD

hair & beauty

GENTLEMANS HAIRDRESSER (Barber) required.
Also
SCHOOL LEAVER
for Apprenticeship, Quinton area
0121 422 4104

8 Motoring

cars under £1500

BARGAIN
CHEVROLET AVEO
2009.
38k.
Petrol.
PS. Air con.
E/W. E/M.
£1,400.
07484 329299.

DIESEL
CITROEN C5 DIESEL ESTATE
2002,
MoT till October.
Handbrake requires attention.
£250.
01785 598616 Penkridge.

IDEAL FIRST CAR
CITROEN ESTATE C5
2003, new MoT, 67,000 miles, green.
Very good condition.
£785.
01922 479743. 07866 823209.

CITROEN PICASSO
52, 145,000 miles, silver, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, air con, MoT, cruise control, sunroof, stereo.
£550 ono.
07583 980409.

FOR A QUICK SALE
NISSAN MICRA
Red,
02 Reg.,
MoT'd.
£500 o.n.o.
07840 671910.

BARGAIN
PEUGEOT 206 XL
03 Reg., 4Dr,
65,000 miles,
excellent condition,
garaged, service history,
new MoT.
£725.
01922 492321.

LOW MILEAGE
RENAULT CLIO
06 reg, 1.4, petrol,
44,000 miles, reliable runner,
Bargain £1,150.
07866 523369.

LOW MILEAGE
VAUXHALL CORSA C 1.2SXi
2003,
SXi alloy wheels,
silver,
immaculate condition,
9 months MoT,
79,000 miles.
£800 ono
07835 034158.

cars over £1500

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

SUPERB CONDITION
MINI 1600 COOPER DIESEL
2010,
full service history,
red,
12 months MoT,
excellent condition.
£4,500 ono
07970 197173.

PEUGEOT 308 SPORTIUM 1.6
5 door. 2011 (11).
Two owners from new.
FSH (74,000 miles).
Full MoT. Alloys.
A/C. Immaculate throughout.
£2,995.
Telephone 07970 705466.

BARGAIN
RENAULT MEGANE
2009.
Low mileage.
11 months MoT.
Good condition.
Genuine callers only.
£2,500 ono.
01785 612095. 07825 578770.

commercial vehicles

BARGAIN
FORD TRANSIT
CONNECT SWB
2006.
11 months MoT.
£550.
07975 860902.

motorbikes

MUST BE SEEN

HONDA C70

1980, 3,000 miles,

7 months MoT

Very good condition

£1,200 ono

07836 568903.

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT
Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available
0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400. Oldbury Area.

vehicles wanted

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, buyer will call.

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

JOHN SAMUEL LEWIS (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 34 Jowetts Lane West Bromwich, who died on 30/01/2017, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 20/10/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

BACHES LLP
Cronehills Linkway West Bromwich B70 7PL

T508309

COLIN TREVOR NEWMAN (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 96 Hugh Road, Smethwick, West Midlands B67 7JT, who died on 04/06/2017, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 18/10/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Nicholls Brimble Solicitors, 409 Bearwood Road, B66 4DJ. Ref: YF/Newman/0164

highways england

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14(1)(a) THE M5 MOTORWAY, (FRANKLEY SERVICES, WORCESTERSHIRE) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2017

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Highways England Company Limited (Company No. 9346363) intends to make an Order on the M5 Motorway, in the County of Worcestershire, to allow the installation of a new length of safety barrier inspections and routine maintenance works to be carried out.

The effect of the Order will be to close the slip road leading from the southbound carriageway of the M5, to Frankley Motorway Service Area.

The work will be carried out over night between 21:00 hours and 06:00 hours and is expected to start on Monday 4 September 2017 and continue for five nights. The Order will come into force on Monday 28 August 2017.

Vehicles being used by the emergency services and vehicles being used in connection with the works or by a traffic officer will be exempt from the closure.

For more information please contact Esosa Ikolo, on 0300 470 3105.

Karen Eustace, an Officer in Highways England Company Limited.

Highways England Company Limited (Company No. 9346363) registered office: Bridge House, Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, GU1 4LZ. A Company registered in England and Wales.

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regeneration and Planning
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015

I hereby give notice that Sandwell Council has received the following applications under the planning acts which it is required to give public notice for the reason given at the beginning of each group of applications.

This is a major application.

DC/17/60876	Mr S Bastable Midland Motorhomes Ltd	78A Oldbury Road Rowley Regis B65 0JS	Demolition of existing retail unit and proposed 3 & 4 storey 30 No. apartment building with associated car parking and site works.

The proposed development does not accord with the provisions of the Development Plan in force in the area in which it is situated.

DC/17/60757	Mr Chris Ashmore Ashmore Properties Limited	Anglo Caribbean Exports Chaters Close Tipton DY4 8JQ	Proposed erection of new commercial unit (revised application – DC/16/60152).

Members of the public may inspect copies of these applications at Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE (between 8.45a.m. and 5.30p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Wednesday and 8.45a.m. to 5p.m. Friday) or via the Council's Public Access website (www.sandwell.gov.uk).

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications can do so via the website, or should write to the Council at the above address within 21 days (and 21 days for Listed Building or Conservation Area consent) of the date of this advertisement quoting the application reference number.

MR JAN BRITTON, Chief Executive

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Footpath Link between Pound Road and Red House Avenue, Wednesbury) (Temporary Footpath Closure) Order 2017, intends to temporarily prohibit pedestrians from proceeding via the length of footway located between No's 20 Pound Road and 29 Red House Avenue, Wednesbury. Work is expected to be completed by 25/08/17, effective from 21/08/17. Pedestrians will be diverted via Oldbury Street, Brunswick Park Road and vice-versa. Purpose – bridge works by Tony Gee and Partners LLP for Network Rail.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Churchbridge, Oldbury) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2017, intends to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Churchbridge, Oldbury between A4123 Wolverhampton Road and the junction with Portway Road. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 03/09/17 effective from 02/09/17. Traffic will be diverted via Wolverhampton Road, Portway Road and vice-versa. Purpose – movement of abnormal load by ALE Heavylift for National Grid.

CLASSIFIEDS WORK!!!

"For over 30 years we have used Express & Star classified adverts which has resulted in many happy caravan owners!" Hillandale Caravans

"I average around 10 phone calls a week from customers as a direct result of my Classified Advertising. I am very happy with my response levels." Mr Causer.

WHAT OUR CUSTOMERS SAY!...

"We have been advertising in the Express & Star and Chronicles for over 20 years and consider it a key part of our business with the regular flow of calls, which our advertising generates." Black Country Homes

"Wednesfield Carpentry & Gates are really pleased with their classified contract advertising response." John - Wednesfield Carpentry & Gates.

"I am extremely happy with the Service get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representative and I would recommend them to anyone!" Michael - Portway Fencing

Call 01902 319 191

Brought to you by Express & Star

10 Personals

personal

★★★

BLONDE PROFESSIONAL LADY 65

Would like to meet professional business gent for happy times together.

Box Number P20894 ,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

★★★

GENTLEMAN

Home owner, 34 years old, looking for lady, 21-40 years for friendship and maybe more. Employed or not, doesn't matter, won't be judged either way, must be unattached.

Looking forward to your reply.

Box Number P20892,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

I AM LOOKING FOR MY SON

Mr A. Lewis.

Last seen Wolverhampton.

Please get in touch.

Box Number P20904 ,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton,
WV1 1ES.

WLTM SINCERE, GENUINE LADY

with a happy outlook to life, for friendship and companionship, with a lonely early 70's Widow gentleman, young at heart with a GSOH. Sharing company for walks, chats, interest days and evening occasions.

Cannock Chase area.

Box Number P20907,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

general

WRESTLING AT CANNOCK PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE

Gentleman with Granddaughter who sat by lady with her Son and would like to see her again and would appreciate if you would get in touch with Ron with a view to meeting up again.

Box Number P20896,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

Express & Star DATING

YOUR regional dating service, run by the dating experts who have been established since 1990. ***REAL people in YOUR region***

Try it.. You'll love it!

Dates in *YOUR* region

Been left a message? ***Pickup*** your replies on: **0906 500 3957** calls cost £1.55 per min plus your phone company's access charge.

Here's how to use your dating service ...

To ***Place*** your advert call: **0844 381 5936** follow the simple instructions. You will also get ***£10 SMS CHAT CREDIT***

To ***Place*** your ad by text: Simply text **REG** followed by your first name, date of birth, area and your advert (max 155 characters) and send to **80098** **FREE** Standard Network rates apply.

To ***Reply*** to members call: **0906 500 3955** calls cost £1.55 per min plus your phone company's access charge. Have the adverts 6-digit box no written down and do ***key-it-in promptly*** when asked. Don't forget to leave contact details for replies.

To ***Reply*** by text: ***Text..*** **REPLY26** (leave space) box number (leave space) and then enter your message & send to **80098** eg: **REPLY26** 123456 **hi get in touch...** then send to **80098** Successfully received messages cost £1.50 per SMS received (Max 160 characters). You must exchange 7 messages each before you can swap contact details. Messages may be moderated for your safety and security.

YOU can now ***Date ONLINE*** or via your mobile just visit: **http://dating.expressandstar.com**

THE biggest UK on-line database of 17 million UK REAL users waiting to meet ***you.. visit..*** **http://dating.expressandstar.com**

Single Women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

I am a 57-year-old lady, 5ft 8ins tall, short brownish hair. I am of medium build, outgoing, caring and WLTM similar male. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6024848**

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 419673**

MAY, 64, widow, GSOH, lonely and WLTM a nice, kind gentleman of similar age, hopefully someone who likes walking and animals. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428217**

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. **Tel: No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715**

SHEILA, 64, widow, GSOH, likes to get out and about, walking, animals, reading, classical music, WLTM a male of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428181**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399**

CHRISSIE 42, pretty, leggy and feminine searching for romance seeks tall, dark, hunky guy to set her heart on fire. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428237**

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375**

DEBBIE 44, lonely and fed up brunette, slightly bonkers and in need of love and attention, seeks Mr Special. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428199**

TAMIKA, mature black beauty, hourglass figure and open minded. Pls call if you are discreet, broad minded and nice. I can travel and accommodate. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3007 Box 422365**

PEGGY young 58, married but lonely, WLTM a nice man similar age for days, evenings out and friendship. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6025217**

SAMANTHA, 35yrs, attractive brunette with own business, seeks adventurous gent for casual relationship. **Tel: 0906 515 3035 Box 425979**

FEMALE 66, smoker, enjoys music, TV, meals out/in, looking for male, 68-75, for friendship maybe more. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 4416972**

JAN 40s, small outgoing affectionate blonde, likes cuddles, seeks romantic male to share special times and bring sunshine into her life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428089**

HARRIETT 42yrs, blue eyed brunette with long lets and decent curves! Looking for a cheeky adventurous man for fun only. I live alone so can accommodate and can travel. Discretion assured. ACA. Give me a try. **Tel: 0906 515 3031 Box 426205**

CARMEL, open minded naughty lady seeks a broad minded strict man to unleash her wilder side. Age/looks unimportant but no time wasters please. **Tel: 0906 515 3043 Box 426851**

MARY 46, shy curvy brunette looking for someone to be a good fun friend, to laugh with and love. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428073**

CAROLINE, 42yrs, well educated, sophisticated "some call me posh" married lady, looking for no strings midweek liaisons. **Tel: 0906 515 3027 Box 427533**

ATTRACTIVE lady 61yrs young. Looking for friendship, maybe more with genuine gent. I'm feminine and curvy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428157**

TINA, 47yrs, GSOH and good figure with average looks. I want a similar man, GSOH looks unimportant. Age is but a number. I have no car but can accommodate. **Text Only. Box: 4145368**

CHRISTINE, 60 something lady, blue eyed blonde. Sincere, solvent and kind. Call me if you are interested in meeting up. Looks unimportant. Must be N/S. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428155**

JANE, new to area, hoping to meet an older gent. I am 38yrs, brunette with boyish leggy figure. N/S with GSOH. I've a good job and small flat which I own. **Text Only. Box: 4099268**

CAROL, attractive lady 55yrs young, slim, tanned, brunette. If you are genuine and looking to date then call or text me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428153**

MANDY, 64yrs but still fit and sexy. Hoping to meet younger local lad for good daytime fun. Chats and texts any time. **Text Only. Box: 4050784**

GENUINE caring lady 65yrs, varied interests, solvent, loves life, feminine, WLTM gent of any age for life's pleasures. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428151**

PAULINE, 59yrs, nurse who loves her uniform! I'm married but work odd hours so can meet easily. ACA. **Text Only. Box: 4110283**

RACHAEL, 50yrs, blue-eyed attractive lady, loves films, music and home life. WLTM gent 50-70yrs. ACA or text. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428149**

TRACY, 68yrs, recently retired and has time on her hands. Would love to meet a much much younger chap for carefree times. **Text Only. Box: 4006039**

TAMARA, 44yrs, beautiful Indian lady seeks a Muslim gent 40+ **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428147**

HELLO, my name is Pia, I am a very petite, kind and respectful Asian girl, hoping to meet an older white man. I'm 23yrs old and have just moved her. **Text Only. Box: 4177099**

IF you are interested in meeting an attractive black lady then please call me. I'm Nikki, 57yrs, attractive, interested and kind. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428145**

SLIM attractive lady, 59yrs, feminine, kind, loves life. Call me or text me your number and let's meet up. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428143**

CAROL, 60 something lady with a wicked sense of humour, please call or text for more info. I promise to reply to all callers. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428141**

ATTRACTIVE widow, attractive, blonde, GSOH, solvent with good figure. All that's missing is a nice man 60+. Call me if you are interested. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428139**

GEORGINA, 50s, attractive, happy blonde, loves sport, theatre, seeks intelligent, lively male to share the fun side of life with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428053**

LADY, 63, WLTM a gentleman of similar age, for friendship and outings. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428029**

SUE 53, voluptuous, outgoing, cuddly and bubbly, loves a joke and just wants fun, flirting and laughter in her life again, seeks her Mr Charming. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427913**

MICHELLE, 37, pretty, very fit, well travelled seeks active, broadminded male to share new experiences and adventures with. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427897**

EMMA 56, active and always on the go, seeks fit, active, country loving guy who shares passion for the outdoors. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427811**

ATTRACTIVE lady, 57yrs, great sense of humour, now looking for good times and good memories. Hoping to meet gent any age. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427883**

GEMMA, 25yrs, green eyed brunette lady, loves to read raunchy books so has a huge imagination, hoping to expand upon it in real life. Call me. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427881**

ATTRACTIVE lonely widow, mid 70s seeking gent for friendship. Pls call or text. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427879**

STUNNINGLY attractive black lady, 50s, with blissful imagination, you have to call to hear what's on offer, you won't be sorry!! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427877**

CULTURED lady with wicked sense of humour, late 60s seeking humorous man for purposeful relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427875**

ATTRACTIVE lady, 51yrs, loves the countryside, walking, fun times. WLTM a genuine man for romance, relationship. Call or text me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427873**

Single Men

VERY fit, elderly widower, loves walking, bird watching, exploring Europe, WLTM a lady for companionship. Please reply via box number. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428171**

MALE, late 60s, N/S, retired, 5ft9, slim build, enjoys holidays abroad, weekends away, travel, meals out. Looking to meet female, N/S, who enjoys similar interests, to share good times together, for friendship and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428219**

JEFF, 60s, tall, fit, young outlook, N/S, car owner, seeks similar lady for friendship, outings out etc. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428175**

SINGLE dad, tall, blonde hair, good looking, keeps fit, loves the cinema, meals out, looking for a single lady for date nights. Single mum welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428163**

HI my name is Jay. I'm looking for a lady to have a lovely evening with, maybe once or twice a week. Looking forward to hearing from you soon. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427927**

JACK 23, single, tall, young looking guy, kind and respectful, seeking female age/looks not important for mutual NSA fun. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6026038**

MALE 64, fit, non-smoker, looking for NSA fun with lady, any age. I am kind and caring but miss the touch of a woman. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6025714**

TALL, dark, attractive male, 56, 6ft, WLTM an attractive female, any age, for discreet fun and intimate times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428109**

MALE, attractive, 6ft2, single father, loves a laugh and a giggle, looking for a lady for evenings out, company and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424303**

PHIL 55, divorced, 5ft 10ins, slim, OHAC, seeks female, 18 plus for discreet adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401875**

FUN loving Irish man, seeks relationship, for fun times and going out. Please get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428077**

MALE, 47, fit, slim, honest man, seeking nice, slim, honest lady for LTR, going out for drinks and having good times together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427923**

MALE, dark hair, dark eyes, slim, 47, likes walking, camping, pubs, dancing, looking for a slim, honest lady, for fun times and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427831**

MALE, dark hair, dark eyes, slim, 47, likes walking, camping, pubs, dancing, looking for a slim, honest lady, for fun times and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427831**

I am Kev, 57, looking for a lady in my life. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6023170**

SHAUN, 50, honest, reliable, OHOC, employed, animal lover, likes walks in the country, meals out in country pubs, walking my dogs, looking for my soul mate. If you would like to know more get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427497**

GENTLEMAN, kind, considerate, tactile, thoughtful and caring, hobbies include growing fuschias and vintage tractors, looking for a country girl, someone with no plans of grandeur. Truth and trust number 1 as I trust you so you tell me the truth, and vice versa. Looking for someone to hold and love forever. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427791**

SINGLE male, 43, looking for female friends for txt, phone chats, maybe more. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6017886**

MALE, 47, fit, slim, honest man, seeking nice, slim, honest lady for LTR, going out for drinks and having good times together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427923**

MALE 40s, 5ft 8ins, brown hair, seeks lovely honest girl for fun and friendship please. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6018513**

MARK 40s, from the Birmingham area WLTM a female, any nationality, for LTR. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6016342**

MALE, a young 60 would love to meet a cuddly lady. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6016333**

MALE, 50, brown hair, brown eyes, average looks, 16 and a half stone, good sense of humour, animal lover with loads of love and security to give to the right person. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418783**

MALE 5ft 8ins, average looks, seeking genuine, honest, caring female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413945**

HI my name is Ben. I am 43 years old, 5ft7, slim build, smart dresser, looking for a bored similar lady for naughty texting. **Text only Replies. Mailbox: 6007244**

GENUINE 56yr old male, divorced, OHAC, looking for nice lady for friendship, maybe more. Wolverhampton. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405551**

GENUINE male, 57, OHAC, looking for female, any race, status and age for no strings discreet fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411461**

MALE 57, OHAC, discreet, seeks no strings fun with younger female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414991**

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Smart, value-for-money supermini

By Sharon Walters

That's a bit smart, said my car enthusiast friend Gay, but what is it? I can't say I know the brand, she added before peering inside to add that she liked that as well.

It's a supermini, an MG, I replied. Really? she asked. You don't see many of those about do you?

Well it's about time we did and with MG's current expansion plans it shouldn't be too long before recognition becomes instant.

In the bad old good old days MG was a motoring force to be reckoned with but we all know what happened a few years ago. Then along came the Chinese who saved the brand and set about salvaging some sort of motoring industry at the Longbridge plant on the outskirts of Birmingham.

MG Motor UK, with strong financial backing from overseas, has now set about a major expansion of dealers throughout theUK and by the end of this year will have 90 in place.

There is a straightforward approach to franchising and low cost of set-up appeals to dealers that want to be part of a dynamic and successful organisation, to be listened to and to play a role in shaping the future direction of the franchise.

New car registration figures for MG have vastly increased almost and the brand expects to break 5,000 new car registrations at the end of the year, thanks to its MG3 and MG GS, as well as the launch of its all-new Compact SUV at the end of the year.

All vehicle design and engineering takes place at SAIC Motor UK Technical Centre (SMTC UK) in Birmingham, which employs 300 engineers and is co-located with the headquarters of MG Motor UK.

Alongside evolving the initial concepts for all new MG vehicles, the team also manages testing and innovation programmes. This includes a global initiative to create new, environmentally-friendly powertrain technologies.

There's plenty of space in the cabin

You can personalise your MG3

Now back to the supermini which attracted attention.

I thoroughly enjoyed a week behind the wheel. Value-for-money is excellent and although it could do with an interior refresh, it's pretty and a nippy little mover.

Plus there's a much lower insurance rating of Group 4E, less than half of many of its competitors. And that's good news for young drivers who face exhorbitant premiums on other marques.

All models benefit from front LED daytime running lights and electronic hill hold as standard. Aside from the entry level model, all MG3s feature a high-quality DAB audio system.

The exterior style is sporty, with black A-pillars and 'wrap-around' windscreen, and inside it one of largest and most spacious cabins in the Supermini class.

You get six airbags, electronic stability control, corner brake control and traction control, all as standard.

Buyers can also design their own MG3 with a wide range of colours, exterior graphics, interior colour packs and part-leather upholstery created by the UK design team and inspired by the British fashion industry.

There are four models in the MG3 line up and a full range of options and accessories.

At the top of the range is the MG3 3Style+, with premium 16" 'Diamond' alloy wheels and a sports body styling pack that includes a rear boot spoiler and side sill extensions.

Standard high-tech convenience features include cruise control, automatic lights and windscreen wipers and reverse parking sensors. In addition, the MG3 3Style+ now comes with leather seats as standard.

The mid-range MG3 3Form includes air conditioning, cruise control, DAB radio, Bluetooth and audio streaming, a leather MG-design steering wheel with red stitching and steering wheel audio controls all as standard, over and above the entry model specification.

This five-door supermini is fun, sure-footed and a comfortable ride

For those who want top-of-the range looks but find the high level of equipment in a 3Form is enough, then there is the MG3 3Form Sport. This includes all the features of the mid-range 3Form plus the sports body styling pack and 16" 'Carousel' alloy wheels. The entry model MG3 3Time features a CD player with MP3 compatibility and Aux-in facility.

All models are powered by a sporty 106PS petrol engine with a five-speed manual gearbox and have the same great MG chassis designed to make driving the MG3 a bit more fun than your average small car.

The car will easily cope with tall people in its airy cabin and the front seats are exceptionally comfortable, especially for longer journeys. No wiggling about when caught in jams on motorways, I found.

This five-door supermini is fun, sure-footed, a comfortable ride on all types of road and a great all-rounder.

Prices start at £8,695, with the top-of-the-range model retailing at £11,695 – almost £5,000 cheaper than many competitors.

Toyota plug-in-hybrid ready today with future mobility

The Toyota Prius Plug-in Hybrid shines in the latest ADAC EcoTest comparison: the only one out of the five plug-in models tested to achieve five stars.

For both pollutants as well as for CO_2 emissions (combined consumption of 1.0l/100km + 7.2 kWh/100km with 22 g/km CO_2 or 3.4 l/100km with 79g/km CO_2 with depleted battery) the Prius Plug-in surpassed competitors by a large margin.

Five stars for the Toyota in environmental tests

Refined

Impressive also is the gap to the closest competitor: 2 environmental stars and 30 points (13 for pollutants and 17 for CO_2), illustrate the difference.

The result of the Autoclub is clear: "From the environmental point of view, we can conclude that only the Toyota Prius Plug-in is a real Green Machine".

The specially refined fourth generation hybrid is responsible for the fundamentally low electric power and fuel consumption: the 68 kW EV motors combined with a 1.8l petrol Atkinson-cycle engine bring the emissions to an extraordinarily low level.

The results were 47 points out of 50 for the pollutants and the maximum number of points for CO_2.

The Toyota Prius Plug-in Hybrid, but also the fuel cell Mirai (hydrogen combined consumption of 0.76 kg/100 km, combined electric consumption of 0 kWh/100 km and combined CO_2 emissions of 0 g/km) along with the other hybrid models, that are now available in the eight model line-up in Europe, dominate the ADAC EcoTest top class results. The hybrid range already undercuts in Germany the 2021 CO_2 targets of 95 g/km today – the Prius Plug-in and its siblings make it possible.

Toyota hybrid models make an important contribution to Toyota's Environmental Challenge 2050, for which the Japanese automotive manufacturer has set ambitious sustainability targets for almost all business areas.

A key element here: reduce vehicle CO_2 emissions by 90 percent compared to 2010.

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Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, August 10, 2017

The updated Mark II, bigger and more expensive than before

Countryman is grown-up aimed at family market

By John Griffiths

There are some who feel that MINI's Countryman is a car too far: that it's too big to be called a MINI at all.

Yes, in terms of size and looks it's the furtherest away from the 21st Century MINI hatchback launched by BMW but it has still proved a hit with buyers – in fact it's the second-best selling model in the 'new' MINI range.

It seems some critics still see 'MINI' as a single model: it fact today it is a brand which, like any other, has a number of models. There were buyers – perhaps former MINI hatchback owners now with growing families – who simply demanded more interior space.

Plus buyers' tastes have changed, and now the fastest-growing sector of the market by far is the SUV-styled vehicle: generally higher, roomier and with the option at least of four wheel drive.

Step forward the Countryman, which has those qualities plus MINI DNA in its styling and it's 'fun to drive' dynamics. It first hit the streets in 2010 but this spring the updated Mark II arrived – bigger and more expensive than before, with a higher quality interior and the ability to serve as a practical family car. It has moved up into the 'C' segment, a competitor for the vast range of SUVs out there (at least one from virtually every manufacturer).

The Countryman has a high quality interior

It comes with a range of petrol and diesel engine options, culminating with a new performance version, the 231 bhp John Cooper Works model with sporty trim to match its pretensions. All-wheel drive is an option with all engines and transmission options. It's not manually selectable, but the lightweight system distributes torque on demand – that is, when the front wheels start to slip.

Prices start from £23,045 but be careful when adding some of the multitude of options or option packs which can soon put the price up. The test car, for example, was an all-wheel drive version of the Cooper S diesel, with a base price if £28,990 – but added options put that up to a hefty £36,580 which puts it at the top end of the class where rivals are concerned.

It was powered by a smooth 2.0 litre diesel turning out 190bhp and a useful 400Nm of torque, all of which is available from just 1,850rpm. That means it's quick off the mark, responsive and flexible in a wide range of circumstances. It's 0 to 62mph sprint time is a nifty 7.7 seconds, yet it is capable of up to 60mpg with a CO2 rating of 133g/km for the all-wheel drive version.

The Countryman is significantly bigger, taller and heavier than its hatchback sibling so can't match that car's excellent dynamics, but while it feels larger to drive it is still up there with the best in the SUV class when it comes to handling and roadholding. Steering is quick and positive, and there is plenty of grip – with the benefit of four wheel drive on demand if it's needed. A family car with fun factored in for the keen driver.

But size is important in the family car market and the higher seating position, improved visibility and wase of access are all big reasons for the current love affair with SUVs. The new Countryman is longer and wider than its predecessor, with a longer wheelbase which means more space inside for up to five passengers. Luggage space (425 litres, extending to 1,309 litres with the rear seats folded), has also increased – by up to 220 litres more in the latter configuration. There are also additional storage pockets around the cabin.

The range of adjustment on the driver and front passenger seats has been increased, while there are now three fully seats on the rear bench.

It addition to a full complement of airbags, the Countryman has a collision warning with emergency braking system, dynamic stability control, adaptive cruise control, pedestrian alert, road sign recognition and automatic dipping headlights.

The Countryman is a the grown-up of the MINI family aimed firmly at growing families.

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Ron Flowers unveils the new facilities with the Mayor and Mayoress of Stafford and club officials

Looking at a tribute to founder Charlie Holt are committee members Graham Williams and Terry Homer

Manager Sam Norton and under-21s boss Steve Barrow

Harry Flowers and Brocton's Joe Hartshorne

Flowers helping Brocton to blossom for the future

WOLVES legend Ron Flowers officially unveiled new facilities at a club where his grandson – now with Premier League Burnley – cut his teeth.

England World cup winner Flowers, the oldest member of the 1966 squad, and who made 467 games for the Molineux club, opened the £150,000 hospitality suite at Brocton FC's Silkmore Lane.

From a thistle-strewn wasteland to an award-winning football ground, it is fair to say the Badgers' home has changed a bit over the past 10 years.

The hospitality suite marks the latest stage in its development.

The facility was funded by grants from the Premier League's Football Stadia Improvement and Sport England and is the perfect present for a club which will next month mark its 80th birthday.

The Badgers might have been relegated to the sixth tier of non-league football last season but there has been much to celebrate, not least in the departure to Burnley of two of their players, Aidan Stone and Ron's grandson Harry.

And with a fully licensed bar, the new facility also means pre and post-match routines will never be the same again.

Custom

"This gives people the chance to turn up a bit earlier for games and stay a bit later afterwards," explained chairman Brian Townsend.

"Before now we have had to go to the pub after games. That was fine but we always wanted to have our own facility.

"Of course, I'm guessing the pub might be a bit upset to lose our custom but I think they understand!

"We are also trying to attract community groups to use the suite during the week. First and foremost we are a community amateur sports club. That is the way it has always been."

Townsend and the rest of Brocton's hard-working and passionate committee of volunteers can look on with pride at the transformation brought to a site which was covered in knee-high thistles and graffiti

SPORTING FEATURE

By Matt Maher

"We don't have a lot to offer players other than a good pitch to play on. Now we have a lot more to offer them as well."

when the club acquired a 30-year lease in 2006. For the few years prior to that, the Badgers had lived a somewhat nomadic existence.

Formed in 1937, the club was for years based in the village of Brocton before the success of the team necessitated a change of venue in order to comply with the ground regulations for higher leagues.

The first switch was to Rowley Park Stadium in Stafford and then to Cannock Stadium, before a brief spell at Heath Hayes' Newlands Lane ground.

Finally, after discussions with Staffordshire Council and Police Authority, a lease was acquired for the former Police Grounds on Silkmore Lane – though the hard work was just beginning.

The site, which sits some two miles south of Stafford town centre, had been allowed to go fallow after the police moved out in the late 1990s.

A £58,750 grant from the Big Lottery Fund got the ball rolling and allowed the club to build changing rooms. Football returned to the site for the 2008-09 season, when Brocton's first team were playing in the Midland Combination League.

"We have always tried to attract players with the facilities we have," said Townsend.

"They are now obviously much better than before. That is the most we can offer. We can't pay players. It is for them to aim at a higher level.

"The pitch is important. Our groundsman Terry Homer has been rated the best nationally since 2011 at steps five and six of the non-league pyramid.

"We do invest a lot of money into the ground and the pitch itself. We have cutting machines. We don't have a lot to offer players other than a good pitch to play on. Now we have a lot more to offer them as well."

Townsend's own association with the club stretches back more than 50 years to when he was a player.

He is not the only one who has stuck around. President Graham Williams and groundsman Homer, who is also club secretary, have also racked up more than 50 years with the club.

Former chairman Lionel Morris, who first played for the club in the 1940s, is still a regular attendee, while Barbara and Brian Chandler work tirelessly to ensure kits are washed and programmes are printed.

"There does seem to be something about this place which keeps people around," said Townsend.

"The club's founder Charlie Holt was very adept at getting people involved and that seems to have been continued."

Brocton began their season on Saturday with an FA Cup extra preliminary round tie at Cadbury Athletic, which they won 3-0.

Sam Norton has taken charge of first-team affairs and is targeting a top six finish following relegation from the Midland Premier Division last term.

Catastrophe

The fall to Division One was a disappointment yet far from a catastrophe for the Badgers, who were able to claim a significant coup when the Clarets came calling for keeper Stone and defender Flowers. They were both back at Silkmore Lane as Burnley took their under-23s squad for a friendly, winning the game 3-1 in front of a 200-strong crowd.

"Things like that are almost unprecedented," said Townsend. "I can't think of many who have made the jump from our level to the Premier League.

"Of course we are ambitious and want to get to the next level but only if we can sustain it.

"We want to be stable financially and sustainable with playing strength. We need to keep growing our own players. That really is our aim.

"We want one of the best grounds at the level we play and to give young people the best opportunity to advance in football.

"Harry and Aidan are examples of that. We are on that track."

Boxing bill down but not out after injuries

A SPATE of home corner withdrawals forced a professional boxing show in Dudley last week to be cancelled. The bill at The Venue, Dudley, has been rescheduled to September 29.

Organisers were forced to pull the plug with just three fights left on the card due to injuries to Tyler Denny and Daryl Pearce. Only Les Byfield, Kane Baker and Ekow Essuman were clear to box. Essuman had already replaced Raza Hamza.

Denny suffered a hand injury in training, putting paid to his six-round contest against Matthew Wigglesworth. The middleweight from Rowley Regis will concentrate on his next contest, a Midlands middleweight title fight against Tom Stokes on September 30.

Super feather Byfield is set to be a part of the next Venue show, as will Pearce, who will first focus on a battle with Conor Benn on September 1.

Tickets for last weekend can be exchanged for a full refund, or will be valid for the next show. For more information, go to the point of purchase.

On Edge of glory as Tom crosses ocean

A WOLVERHAMPTON teenager is heading across the pond to fulfil his ambition of becoming a professional footballer. Tom Edge, aged 18, has secured a four-year scholarship at Campbellsville University, Kentucky.

The former AFC Telford United youngster, who was previously on Walsall's book as a teenager, will combine a degree in sports management with playing for the university's soccer team, Campbellsville Tigers.

His proud father, Andy, said: "Their first game is at the end of August. He is going to be doing a degree in sports management. It's a full-scholarship, so a four-year degree. He'll be getting a good education, while playing football for a side that has the facilities of a proper club."

Tom, who moved to Telford from Perton, recently completed his sixth form studies at Codsall Community High School. There he combined his studies with playing regular football for the school's team and as part of the two-year course, he went out to America to play in a tournament. As well as playing for Codsall, he started off last season with AFC Telford's first team.

Aces on track for a night of fundraising

WEDNESFIELD Aces are on track for a fundraising night next month. The cycle speedway side is making the final preparations for the event in memory of Steph Clarke on September 15.

Mrs Clarke died in November 2016 at the same time as Wednesfield was enjoying its new Christmas lights – she had been the driving force behind its fundraising. She had been involved in several community projects including the Aces, Hands on Wednesfield and volunteered at the Ashmore Community Centre as well as running photography classes and working full-time as a social media trainer. Steph and her husband James founded the community website wv11.co.uk

Sixteen riders will compete in five heats each in a handicap formula under the floodlights at the club's Ashmore Park home. Each participant is expected to raise £50 and there will be a collection bucket and a raffle on the evening in aid of Compton Hospice. All riders will take home an award and the overall winner will take home the Steph Clarke Challenge Shield.

Sport

Legend Flowers helps Badgers to blossom

Page 39

Heathens are united with trust in plan

CRADLEY director Nigel Pearson insists they are fully supportive of the planning application submitted by the Cradley Speedway Supporters' Trust.

Pearson says previous issues with the trust have been left in the past and they will continue to back the plans to bring speedway back to the area. And although he still has concerns regarding how receptive Sandwell Council will be to the idea of the new track, he is optimistic their objective could be achieved.

Pearson said: "Many will wonder what the 'issue' has been between ourselves and the Trust, needless to say our views have been passed on to their board.

"There have been many social media outbursts about ourselves as a management team. As far as we are concerned these matters have now been dealt with and we have a very sound mutual understanding going forward and we will leave it at that.

"During the many hours we have spent looking at sites and talking to council officers and leaders – and this also applies to Bob Edwards, Chris Haynes, Tony Mole and others – dismissal of plans have been all too easy and convenient.

"I note the Sandwell Council leader has already expressed concern about objections from residents. I sincerely hope this proves not to be the case.

"A new track is all we have ever wanted since we started this project eight seasons ago."

Cradley are next in action against Birmingham at Monmore in a crunch derby clash on Monday, August 21.

Brummies stall as Eastbourne cross the winning line

BATTLING Birmingham suffered a 50-39 defeat at Eastbourne on Saturday

The Surestop Brummies came close to earning a consolation point but eventually left the tricky Arlington circuit empty-handed.

It was nonetheless an encouraging performance from Graham Drury's side in what is notoriously one of the toughest fixtures on the calendar.

Powerhouse trio Jack Parkinson-Blackburn, Liam Carr and Tom Bacon all bagged double figures.

But they simply didn't receive enough support from the lower order despite their best efforts.

Team boss Drury said: "We went there believing we could get something, but unfortunately we didn't quite have enough tonight."

The Brummies will be back in action when they head to Plymouth tomorrow (Friday), before hosting Mildenhall next Wednesday.

EASTBOURNE 50: Jake Knight 15, Matthew Bates 11+2, Tom Brennan 10+1, Charlie Saunders 6+4, Georgie Wood 6+1, Mark Baseby 2, Charley Powell r/r.
BIRMINGHAM 39: Jack Parkinson-Blackburn 12, Liam Carr 10+2, Tom Bacon 10, David Mason 4+1, Taylor Hampshire 2, Layne Cupitt 1+1, Macauley Leek 0.

Former champions are back on the ball

Oldbury United line up before a pre-season game

EIGHT years after they were forced to fold, former champions Oldbury United are returning to the West Midlands football league.

The club, who once played in the Southern League, began their season against Church Stretton. Home games are played at Bluebell Road in Cradley Heath.

"They went into administration eight years ago," said assistant manager Chris Butts. "It was owned by some committee members who signed the ground and the social club over to themselves. They lost their ground and couldn't relocate and ended up folding." The club has been restored by Tividale football academy chairman Keith Thompson because he wants a pathway for his Tividale Football Academy youngsters. But as Tividale have a first team already, a new name was needed.

"Being an Oldbury lad, I knew United folded in 2009, and they were a really strongly recognised club at the time," he said.

Butts, 25, is assistant to 27-year-old Anthony Hickinbottom. The pair met five years ago on an FA Level 2 coaching course run by Albion.

PULIS REJECTS FIELD OFFERS

ALBION have been forced to reject several offers from lower-league clubs to take promising midfielder Sam Field on loan.

Norwich City, Derby County, Barnsley, Sheffield United, and MK Dons have all shown interest in taking the 19-year-old midfielder for the season.

Tony Pulis is eager to get Field regular first-team football but the Baggies have not yet replaced departed skipper Darren Fletcher in central midfield, and so the Welshman has reluctantly said no to all offers so far.

The England youth team player made nine first-team appearances last season, and is now Pulis's third-choice central midfielder behind Jake Livermore and Claudio Yacob. Although Chris Brunt and James Morrison can also play in central midfield, Morrison is returning from injury and Brunt is often needed either on the wing or at full-back.

Some of the disappointed clubs have since taken their loan deals off the table.

Field is not the only youngster being kept at the club while Albion search for new players.

Walsall are one of many clubs to approach the Baggies about 18-year-old forward Tyler Roberts, who enjoyed a successful loan spell at Shrewsbury Town last season.

Winger Jonathan Leko has also garnered interest, but has been kept back so far. This is a familiar situation for both Leko and Field, who had to turn down loan deals from Championship clubs in January because the squad was too thin.

Pulis has been forced to play plenty of academy players in pre-season thanks to a series of minor injuries to his senior players.

Although the majority of his squad will be fit in time for Bournemouth, he has just 15 senior players on the books he is willing to use.

He hopes to get enough bodies in during this window to allow his youngsters to go out on loan.

"They need to get out and learn about the finer arts of professional football," he said.

'Thinking of you' – Gabby's tribute to Carl

Local rivalries were put to one side at Villa Park on Saturday as Gabby Agbonlahor showed support for his friend, Wolves goalkeeper Carl Ikeme. The Aston Villa striker celebrated his goal against Hull City by holding aloft a t-shirt with the message: 'Get well soon, thinking of you' and a picture of Carl, 31, who is battling leukaemia. After the game, the 30-year-old said: "It was nice to score for my friend Carl Ikeme, who's suffering from leukaemia, so it was a big day for me."

Albion hope to bag Barry in two-year deal

ALBION are trying to lure former Villa midfielder Gareth Barry to The Hawthorns with a two-year contract and the promise of first-team football.

The 36-year-old is considering his future at Everton following Ronald Koeman's summer spending spree that has brought in midfielder Davy Klaassen from Ajax. Barry was already battling it out with Morgan Schneiderlin, Idrissa Gueye, Tom Davies, and James McCarthy, although he started 23 Premier League games last season.

He has one year left on his Everton contract but Baggies boss Tony Pulis, who wants to replace departed skipper Darren Fletcher, is willing to give him a two-year deal. Gareth McAuley, James Morrison, Nacer Chadli and Chris Brunt didn't travel to Spain for the final warm-up against Deportivo La Coruna and then Jonny Evans pulled out with a tight hamstring.

But Pulis has been boosted by his medical team, who are confident everyone will be fit for the season-opener against Bournemouth.

Boxers get set for big showdown

BOXERS are on the Edge of Glory as the new season gets under way at the Banks's Stadium on September 1.

'Edge of Glory', promoted by BCB Promotions, is a seven-fight card featuring a number of up-and-coming fighters, including local boy Sam Evans, trained by Ricky Hatton.

Wednesbury welterweight Evans has recorded nine straight victories since turning professional less than two years ago and has his sights set on major honours during the new campaign.

Stablemate, Irishman Chris Blaney, 7-0, will also be looking to get himself in the mix at super middleweight.

Newark super middleweight Chad Sugden, a former world champion kickboxer, is also back in action.

Old Hill super featherweight, Manny Zaber (10-1) features as he looks to stay in shape ahead of a mooted Midlands Area showdown with Black Country rival Les Byfield in the new season.

West Bromwich light heavyweight, Josh Stokes (3-0), will be looking to build on a solid debut boxing season this time around. Stokes has fought three times already this year.

Chasetown lightweight, Luke Jones (3-1-1), and Derby lightweight, Sahib Singh Mann (3-0), complete the card.

Standard tickets for 'Edge of Glory', priced at £35, are available by calling the boxers. £60 VIP tickets for tables of ten, with food, are available by calling the boxer or Walsall FC Box Office on 01922 651 414/416.

Reece's fantastic race at Tamworth

YOUNG Black Country Triathlete Reece Ashfield had a fantastic race again this weekend at the BRAT Sprint Triathlon held at Cliff Lakes in Tamworth. He came home second overall in a time of 1:04:13 following a 750m open water swim, 22km bike and 5km run; his run time was a fast 15:45.

Slightly further afield David Nash competed in The Cowman middle distance race in Emberton Country Park. The race started at Emberton Sailing clubs with a 1.9km swim in the lake before heading out on the two lap 92km bike from Olney, finishing with a 21km run around the lake.

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Source:

* *Graduate outcomes by degree and university: Department of Education December 2016. Proportion of graduates in sustained employment with or without further study (excludes self-assessment). 09/10, 10/11 and 12/13 cohorts. Latest figures available.*

** *'Satisfied with Course'. The Guardian University Guide 2017.*

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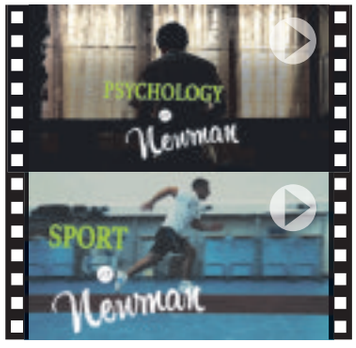
Newman University is a friendly, local, single campus university on the edge of the Black Country, just one or two junctions down the M5 corridor and also accessed via local public transport networks. With excellent graduate employment and student satisfaction rates, our small interactive classes and supportive environment, mean at Newman you are treated as an individual and not as a number. Once you have your A level, BTEC, Access or other results, call our hotline to see if we have vacancies on a course of your choice starting this September.

Find out more about a subject of interest by visiting our website at **www.newman.ac.uk**. Each subject area has a short 2-3 minute video where lecturers and students give an insight to courses and subjects and what it is like to study at Newman.



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Students experience a diverse range of learning methods including lectures, seminars, group work, fieldwork, projects, research and tutorials; this approach to teaching will furnish you with important transferable skills ranging from critical thinking to research skills, problem solving to practical application of knowledge, and data analysis to team working. These skills will enable the carving out of a career of choice within an increasingly competitive graduate employment market.

Studying at Newman will build your confidence, shape your individuality and raise your potential. We will provide you with opportunities that will inform your learning and a platform for your ideas to flourish so that you leave Newman as a capable graduate ready to make a significant impact in the world.

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Newman University prides itself on providing quality education and encouraging students to fulfil their potential, equipped to make a contribution to society. Our philosophy is to ensure that you graduate as a confident entrepreneur in whatever field you choose. In recognition of the need to prepare you for a rewarding career and to maximise the

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opportunities open to you after graduation, a key feature of our undergraduate degrees at Newman is a compulsory work related module.

Work Placement
All students undertake a work placement as part of their 3 year degree, allowing them to contextualise their studies and put what they have learned into a real world context, which has benefits for both the employer and student. This experience contributes to Newman consistently having one of the best graduate employment rates of UK universities. The work placement not only provides you with valuable graduate level experience of work within an area you may be considering for a career, but is a key asset when applying for jobs.

As a graduate you will have the skills and a deeper understanding of your discipline, so you can adjust to the challenges of the future and stand out from the crowd. With work placement modules built into all our degree programmes, it's no surprise that Newman has a consistently high graduate employment record.

As a Newman student you could take part in work experience in a variety of inspiring destinations all over the world including The Gambia, Australia, USA and India. A little closer to home, students have worked with a vast array of UK employers and for many students this has led to regular paid employment.

Student Life
Newman offers you all the ingredients to ensure academic success but it's up to you to get involved and make the most of your time at university to become a well-rounded graduate.

For many students commuting to university is a cost-effective option and all students whether in Halls of Residence or commuting, still get to enjoy and actively participate in the thriving student community on campus.

Living in halls is a great place to experience university life and enjoy your freedom. Halls of residence are located on site at the heart of university, so you will be part of a safe environment and conveniently close to your classes.

You can expect a fully furnished room with free WiFi, in standard and ensuite options. Access to communal kitchen and living areas provides additional social space which adds to the close community feel. With current rates from £4,280 per academic year, living in halls of residence is an attractive financial option. New halls of residence due to be completed in Spring 2018 are currently under construction to provide a greater range and capacity for student accommodation.

Campus Life
Our self-contained campus means you can relax, unwind or party with like-minded people in a friendly environment. Providing an additional open social space, the Atrium is home to our vibrant café serving the popular Starbucks beverages. It's an ideal place to grab a morning coffee, a bite to eat or to socialise with friends. For something more substantial, the Sanctuary café is the place to be and it also provides the perfect spot to enjoy the sunshine in the surrounding gardens. Our on-site Senses bar is the social hub for Newman students. By day the bar is home to comfy surroundings so you can socialise with friends, play pool, listen to music or watch the big screen. By night the bar plays host to a variety of events including talent shows, bands, comedy acts and theme nights which appeal to all audiences. Friday nights are particularly entertaining, with live acts and a late bar.

Your Students' Union
As a new student the Union will welcome you during freshers' fortnight – probably the best introduction you could have to Newman. The bustling freshers' fair is the perfect introduction to the clubs, teams and societies that are on offer and a chance to grab some freebies. Our societies and sport teams are a great way to meet new friends, and with a variety of daytime and night-time entertainments, there are more opportunities on offer here at Newman than just your course.

To find out more about Newman University and the courses on offer, please visit **www.newman.ac.uk** where you can also request a prospectus.

Newman is the top English university for graduate employment 1 year and 3 years after graduation and remains in the top ten, 5 years after graduation.

Source: Graduate outcomes by degree and university: Department of Education December 2016. Proportion of graduates in sustained employment with or without further study (excludes self-assessment). 09/10, 10/11 and 12/13 cohorts. Latest figures available.

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BA (Hons) Criminology
BA (Hons) Drama and Education
BA (Hons) Drama and English
BA (Hons) Drama, Theatre and Applied Performance
BA (Hons) Early Childhood Education and Care
BA (Hons) Education and Counselling Studies
BA (Hons) English
BA (Hons) English Literature
BA (Hons) English and Creative Writing
BA (Hons) English and Education
BA (Hons) English and Theology
BSc (Hons) Health and Social Care
BA (Hons) History
BA (Hons) History and Education
BA (Hons) History and Theology
BSc (Hons) Mathematics
BA (Hons) Philosophy, Religion and Education
BSc (Hons) Psychology
BSc (Hons) Psychology and Childhood Studies
BSc (Hons) Psychology and Counselling Studies
BA (Hons) Sport and Education
BSc (Hons) Sport and Exercise Psychology
BSc (Hons) Sport Coaching Science
BA (Hons) Sport Coaching Science and Tournament Golf
BSc (Hons) Sport and Exercise Science
BA (Hons) Sport and Exercise Studies
BA (Hons) Studies in Primary Education
BA (Hons) Theology
BA (Hons) Theology and Education
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